

## U.S. says it will quit UNESCO

PARIS (R) — The United States has formally told the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) it intends withdrawing in a year's time, well-informed sources said Wednesday. The sources said the U.S. ambassador to UNESCO, Jean Gerard, handed UNESCO Director-General Amadou Mahtar Mbow a letter Wednesday containing the U.S. decision. The sources said it would be formally announced in Washington Thursday. Last weekend reports from Washington said the State Department had recommended to President Reagan that the U.S. withdraw from the 161-nation organisation. There was no immediate comment from UNESCO's Paris headquarters. Any country wishing to withdraw from UNESCO must give a year's notice, and the widely expected U.S. decision had to be taken by Dec. 31 if Washington wanted to pull out at the end of the next financial year.

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## Osama Baz expected here in 48 hours

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Baz is due here in the coming 48 hours for talks with senior Jordanian officials. The talks are expected to deal with the topics discussed during PLO leader Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo and his talks with Mr. Mubarak last Thursday.

## Jordan bans Iranian stamp

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben has issued a ban on a postal stamp issued by Iran recently. The stamp is considered harmful to Iraq in general and to President Saddam Hussein in particular, according to the ministry. As of Thursday no ban on postal material coming into Jordan from Iran will be distributed if it carries this particular stamp, the minister's order said.

## Europarlamentarians due to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the European Parliament due here in January for talks with Jordanian officials. The delegation members are expected to discuss Middle East issues and will exchange views on a settlement for the Palestinian problem.

## More Israelis oppose settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — More Israelis now oppose the setting up of new settlements in the occupied Arab West Bank and Gaza than support the programme, according to a public poll published Wednesday. The Public Opinion Research Institute, in a poll conducted of the independent daily, Haaretz, said 48.5 per cent of those questioned this month came out against building further settlements in the occupied areas, compared to 36.9 per cent in support. The remainder had no opinion.

## Palestinian fighters arrive in S. Yemen

ADEN (R) — About 580 Palestinian fighters, including 52 families, evacuated from north Lebanon last week with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, have arrived in South Yemen, South Yemeni officials said Wednesday.

## China seeks end to Gulf war

BAGHDAD (R) — The vice-chairman of the standing committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Wang Ren Zhong, was quoted as saying Wednesday that China wanted a quick end to the three-year-old Iran-Iraq war. The Iraqi News Agency said Mr. Wang discussed the war Wednesday with Naim Haddad, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly. The six-man Chinese delegation, which arrived Tuesday night, is also to visit Jordan, Syria and Egypt. Chinese embassy officials said.

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## Another soldier killed, 2 wounded in latest attack Resistance to Israel mounts in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — One Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded Wednesday when an army patrol was ambushed in southeastern Lebanon, an army spokesman said.

It was the second death this week among Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and brought to 562 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon since the invasion of June 1982, according to official figures. The ambush occurred near the village of Houne. The attackers fled into heavy underbrush after firing bazookas and light arms fire at the Israeli patrol.

A military spokesman said earlier that a roadside bomb exploded Wednesday as an Israeli patrol passed near the village of Amiq in eastern Lebanon. There were no casualties or damages in that incident, the spokesman said.

The eastern sector, where a narrow strip of territory separates Israeli and Syrian forces, has been relatively quiet for many months. But three military incidents occurred in the past week and Israeli sources said commando units may have begun operating out of Syrian-held territory.

Israeli forces have been attacked in the area three times in the past week, and Chief of Staff Moshe Levy told state radio that while there had been a big increase in incidents, there was no proof Palestinian fighters released by Israel last month were responsible for the upsurge.

Mr. Levy was quoted as saying that Palestinian fighters who left Tripoli in northern Lebanon last week with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat had already returned to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

### 'Retaliation' in Sidon

In Sidon four cars and a number of buildings were damaged by explosives Tuesday night in what Lebanese security sources described as an apparent attack on

the Muslim Brotherhood in the Israeli-held South Lebanese port of Sidon.

The sources said they believed Israel's local allies were responsible and that the attack was in retaliation for the killing of an Israeli soldier in a gun battle on Monday night.

An Israeli military spokesman in Sidon declined comment but military sources in Tel Aviv expressed the opinion that the explosions probably sprang from a gang war in the port.

The assailants hurried up to six hand grenades at a parked car belonging to a brotherhood member and planted two bombs outside the houses of other people in the fundamentalist Sunni Muslim group, local residents said.

Four cars caught fire and one of the bombs damaged several buildings.

The security sources said the brotherhood members were close associates of three Lebanese reportedly killed in Monday's gun battle, which broke out when they were spotted planting a roadside bomb.

The Israeli military sources in Tel Aviv said the explosions were aimed at shops as part of a battle for control of Sidon market. Reporters who visited the scene Wednesday said there were no shops in the area.

The Lebanese security sources said they believed this was the first retaliation of its kind against groups associated with attacks on the Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon.

In the past Israel has avenged the attacks with air raids on military positions in parts of Lebanon held by Syrian or Lebanese leftist forces.

The air strikes did little to pre-

vent the almost daily ambushes and bombings. The planes last struck one week ago.

### Protests planned

The security sources also noted that urban Sunni Muslims now appeared to be taking a more active part in underground resistance to Israeli occupation.

Military sources with close links to the south say Shi'ite Muslims, who make up the majority of the rural population, have been at the forefront of the opposition.

In the last 48 hours Israeli forces in Sidon have arrested two Sunni religious leaders, Sheikh Mohammad Al Saoudi and Sheikh Muhammad Arfi, the security sources said. The Israeli military spokesman confirmed the arrests.

At a meeting in the house of the Sunni mufti (chief justice) of Sidon, religious leaders from all over the south called for sit-ins and a general strike Thursday in protest against these and other arrests.

### Arens tours blast sites

As they met, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens visited the sites of recent roadside explosions in South Lebanon.

Along the road from Sidon to the inland town of Jezzin, loudspeakers at the front of his convoy warned people not to stand by the side of the road.

The minister also inspected building work on the vehicle inspection terminal Israel is building at the Awali Bridge into the occupied south.

The terminal, which the military spokesman said could open in about two weeks, will speed up traffic across the bridge by making it possible for Israeli troops to search eight vehicles simultaneously.

Under the present system, imposed after a bomb blast destroyed an Israeli security headquarters in the southern port of Tyre in November, trucks can wait at the Awali for up to a week.

## Beirut seeks to consolidate truce

BEIRUT (R) — A fragile truce between the Lebanese army and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen held for the second day Wednesday as a special security committee met in an effort to work-out a lasting peace.

The committee met for the first time this week after the representative for the Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" (hope) militia agreed to suspend his boycott.

The Lebanese army, the mainly Druze leftist Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the predominantly Christian right-wing coalition known as the "Lebanese

Forces" are also represented on the four-man committee.

No official announcement was issued at the end of Wednesday's meeting and there was no word on its results.

State-run Beirut Radio later said the committee adjourned without taking decisions on any of the subjects reviewed because the PSP had sent only a delegate and not its regular representative.

It said the committee would meet again Wednesday.

The committee, which has the task of consolidating the truce, was set up under the terms of a

ceasefire agreement reached through Saudi mediation in Damascus on Sept. 25.

No significant violations of the latest truce were reported Wednesday but Beirut Radio said a mortar shell landed near an army position in the eastern sector of the battle zone in Beirut's southern suburbs, wounding two civilians.

It said army positions in the mountain village of Aitah, 11 kilometres east of Beirut, came under sporadic shell and sniper fire in the morning.

## Junblatt sceptical of peaceful solution

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese opposition leader Walid Junblatt told a press conference here Wednesday he had "serious doubts" about the possibility of a peaceful solution in his country.

Mr. Junblatt was speaking after several days of street fighting in Beirut's southern suburbs between the Lebanese army and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen. Mr. Junblatt's own mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) fighters have been trading barages with the army.

"We will try to find the way to a

political solution but I am having very serious doubts," the PSP leader said.

"I am having some doubts about the possibility of reaching any agreement with (Lebanese President) Amin Gemayel," he added.

Mr. Junblatt sat down at the conference table in Geneva with President Gemayel and his father Pierre, leader of the predominantly Christian rightist Falange Party.

But he expressed no optimism for a second round of the so-called

"national reconciliation talks."

"We are facing the Falangists with all that means," he said. "I have doubts about any deal with the Gemayels, father and son."

"The Lebanese army is shelling the mountains, the southern suburbs and it is killing poor people."

He said his men had no choice but to defend themselves and would fight if attacked.

Asked about the mission of Saudi mediator Rafiq Hariri, who is reportedly working on a disengagement agreement, Mr. Junblatt said he kept an open mind.

## Egyptian official to visit Israel today

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry representative will visit Israel Thursday for talks with Israeli officials on bilateral issues. Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

They said Assistant Foreign Minister Shafie Abdul Hamid was expected to stay in Israel for one or two days and would meet the director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, David Kimche.

The officials did not rule out talks between Mr. Abdul Hamid and more senior Israeli government members.

Mr. Kimche was in Cairo last

month for similar talks which were reported at the time to have failed to narrow differences over a number of issues.

Egypt, whose relations with the Jewish state have slipped since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, considers Israel belligerent over the issue of Taba, a tiny piece of land in Sinai south of the Israeli port of Elat and claimed by both countries.

Relations between the two countries were further complicated by last Thursday's meeting in Cairo between President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat and the death of an Egyptian national in an Israeli jail.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir expressed regret and astonishment at the Mubarak-Arafat meeting, the first between Mr. Arafat and an Egyptian president in more than six years.

Egypt, which withdrew its ambassador in Israel 15 months ago in protest against the massacre of Palestinians in two Beirut refugee camps, has asked for clarifications over the death of the Egyptian who was found hanged in his prison cell.

## Arafat, PLO aides endorse action plan

SANA'A (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived here two days ago after his evacuation from north Lebanon, Wednesday approved a military plan for future Palestinian action, his aides announced without giving details.

They said the plan had been worked out by Mr. Arafat and four Palestinian military commanders after two days of meetings here.

Mr. Arafat signed the plan in his capacity as commander-in-chief of Palestinian forces and ordered its immediate implementation, his aides said.

They gave no details of the plan but said Mr. Arafat had also given his commanders a political and military report on the recent fighting in north Lebanon and the six-week siege of his men by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.

Mr. Arafat sailed into a North Yemeni port west of here on Monday.

The statement by Mr. Arafat's aides made no mention of "new trends" within the Palestinian movement, promised by Mr. Arafat following his controversial talks in Egypt with President Hosni Mubarak last Thursday.

His talks in Egypt were sharply criticised by his opponents, some of his supporters and radical Arab countries. Some demanded his removal as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Meanwhile, a senior Fateh official was quoted Wednesday as saying Mr. Arafat is expected to visit Tunis within the next two days for a meeting of the Central Committee of his Fateh guerrilla group.

The Kuwaiti news agency, quoted Fateh Central Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), as saying the meeting would evaluate Palestinian developments in the light of the Arafat-Mubarak meeting.

### 'Cairo talks new approach'

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was quoted Wednesday as saying the meeting between Mr. Arafat and President Mubarak signalled a new Palestinian approach to the Middle East conflict.

Social conscience persuades Briton to join PLO, page 2



Ahmad Iskander Ahmad

## Syrian information minister dies at 39

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskander Ahmad died in hospital here Wednesday at the age of 39, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said.

On Monday a hospital spokesman said Mr. Iskander died Monday but SANA quoted "information sources" as saying Tuesday that the minister was not dead but in "grave condition."

Mr. Iskander had been gravely ill for some time and had undergone surgery in London for a brain tumour.

Mr. Iskander was born in 1944 in a small village near the central industrial town of Homs.

Beginning as a party journalist and editor, he became one of President Hafez Al Assad's right-hand men on his appointment as information minister in 1974.

## Jordanian economy will continue growth, says Central Bank chief

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite a sharp drop in Arab aid and the effects on Jordan of the regional and international economic recessions, the Jordanian economy should grow by 4-5 per cent in real terms this year, Central Bank Governor Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi told a gathering of Jordanian bankers here on Tuesday night.

At the annual dinner for bankers hosted by the Jordanian Banks' Association, held at the Amra Hotel, Dr. Nabulsi noted that the Arab oil-producing states that had pledged to provide Jordan with \$1.25 billion a year at the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit have been unable to come up with the full amount, and during the past two years their budget support grants to Jordan have totalled a full \$1 billion less than the Jordanian government had anticipated.

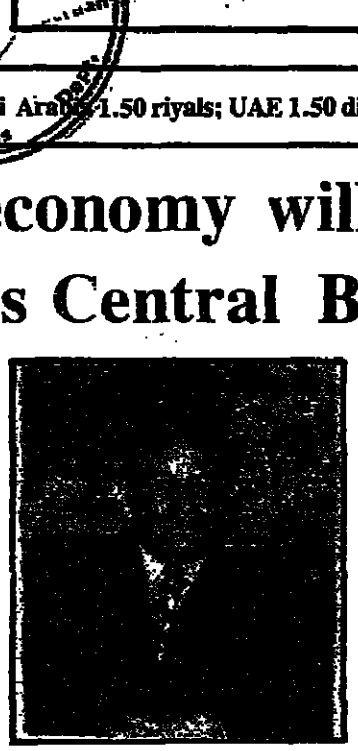
This has combined with the economic recession in the oil-producing states and throughout the industrialised world to dampen Jordan's economic growth during the past year; but, as Dr. Nabulsi said, "we anticipate a real growth of about four or five per cent this year, which compares well not only with the Middle Eastern countries, but with any other country in the developing or the industrialised world."

He also expected exports to drop this year, though total foreign exchange receipts should leave the country with a rough equilibrium, or perhaps a small deficit, in its balance of payments by the end of the year. He said the balance of payments account was still showing a small surplus by the end of October, but expected this to change by December.

He also predicted that, despite the drop in anticipated Arab aid, the total amount of foreign exchange coming into Jordan from abroad this year would be more than the corresponding amount for 1982. He also noted that Jordan's reserves remain relatively high (JD 407 million in October, a slight drop from the high of JD 446 million in August), though the government's foreign debt obligations had increased by

## Kreisky: Qadhafi wants to end split

SALZBURG, Austria (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky returned from talks with Libyan leader Muammar-Qadhafi Wednesday and said he believed Col. Qadhafi wanted to end the split in the Arab World. Dr. Kreisky, 72, told reporters he also believed Col. Qadhafi wanted to see Syria and Israel end what both men saw as roles of superpower representatives in the Lebanon conflict. He said he thought the Libyan leader favoured the creation of a peacekeeping force in Lebanon made up of African and neutral countries rather than the present force of troops from the United States, France, Italy and Britain. The former chancellor, who has often sought to mediate in Middle East politics, said Col. Qadhafi had talked in a positive spirit about Saudi Arabia, an Arab state which differs with Libya on many regional questions. "I got the impression the platform between Qadhafi and the other Arab states has become broader and stronger," Dr. Kreisky said.



Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi

about 20 per cent this year and had to be monitored carefully in the coming year. Nevertheless, he suggested, Jordan's foreign debt ratio remains healthy, if compared with most other developing countries. Outstanding government foreign debt at the end of the third quarter of this year was JD 488 million (compared with JD 398 million at the end of last year).

Government-guaranteed foreign debts have remained relatively static during the year, registering JD 204 million at the end of September. This should rise, however, with the government's guarantee of the foreign credits required by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, to finance its purchase of four Lockheed L-1011-500 TriStar jets, worth \$130 million.

Dr. Nabulsi emphasised the need for Jordan to rely more on its own resources to pass through the current relative recession in the economy, which should ease up by the end of next year when the government pays off major commitments related to arms purchases it made in the past four years. He pledged to Central Bank would continue its policy of adjusting monetary regulations to counter any liquidity shortages experienced by the banking and finance sector.

He recognised that the 1984 central government budget represented an actual small drop over the 1983 budget in terms of its real value, when adjusted for inflation, though expenditures on essential developmental projects have been maintained.

He also revealed the Central Bank this year has spent JD 112

million to rediscount commercial banks' and investment companies' participations in medium- and long-term, dollar-denominated locally syndicated loans. The Central Bank would continue this policy in future, he pledged, and would take any other steps required to overcome constraints felt by the banking system because of the recession, the government's tight fiscal policy and regional circumstances, such as reduced exports to neighbouring Arab states.

He announced that in early 1984 the government hopes to establish a new institution that would guarantee the deposits and credits of small investors, and perhaps also to become involved in export promotion by guaranteeing of export payments. He also said the Central Bank is studying means of promoting the bonds market in the country.

He expected the inflation rate for this year to be around 5-6 per cent, representing a return to "normal" inflationary levels that, correspond to a growing economy. He said the 14 per cent increase in both commercial bank deposits and credits this year is also a return to a more normal rate of growth, after such heavy annual increases as 25-30 per cent during the past eight years.

He said the money supply of Jordan increased by just 12 per cent this year, also representing a return to normalcy after nearly a decade of feverishly high growth that reached over 30 per cent in some years.

Referring to two incidents during the year in which two banking institutions faced serious problems, Dr. Nabulsi urged the bankers to recognise that the fast growth of the 1970s, the guest for profits and the need to expand to keep up with competitors may have blurred the traditional emphasis of Jordanian bankers on sound management practices based on experienced staff, tight internal procedures and strict auditing.

He also challenged the bankers to offer their customers more advanced retail banking services and to keep up with the revolution in banking technology and services taking place in the industrialised countries of Europe and North America.

## PNC members determined to preserve PLO unity despite criticism of Arafat

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the divided reaction to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's surprise visit to Cairo last Thursday from Palestine National Council (PNC) members living in Jordan there is a consensus among them to preserve the unity of the organisation and to adhere to "democratic practices" within the PLO.

This consensus was reflected in two different communiques, one which supported the step taken by the PLO leader and a second which condemned it, issued here by the 61 members this week. Both communiques reiterated adherence to the legitimate institutions of the PLO despite the conflicting views they embodied.

The communique which severely denounced Mr. Arafat's meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was signed by the 34 PNC members. According to this communique, the Arafat-Mubarak meeting violated resolutions adopted by the PNC last February in Algiers. One of the PNC resolutions ruled out rapprochement with Egypt unless Cairo abrogates the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords with Israel. The communique described Mr. Arafat's visit as "an extension of his unilateral decisions" which bypass the legal institutions of the PLO.

The "rejectionist" statement also expressed fears that the visit indicates an encouragement of "the Camp David line," and pledges to "struggle against all attempts to push the PLO into accepting capitulatory settlements sponsored by the U.S."

A PNC member who signed the communique explained to the Jordan Times that it reflected a determination to resist a trend within the PLO, if that is what Mr. Arafat's visit indicated, to accept American settlements. "We do not believe that an American settlement will lead anywhere except to undermine the legitimacy of the PLO," the member, who asked not to be named, said.

The "rejectionist" statement, however, did not attack Mr. Arafat directly nor did it call for his resignation. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the biggest Palestinian organisations after the Arafat-led Fateh, have called for the resignation of the PLO leader from his functions.

But, Ishag Al Khatib, a PNC member who signed the "rejectionist" communique, criticised the calls for the PLO leader's resignation and stressed that

"Mr. Arafat should not be described as a traitor." Mr. Khatib told the Jordan Times that the legitimate institutions of the PLO are the only bodies who have the right to decide on these issues.

PNC members who opposed the Arafat-Mubarak meeting said they are aware of the popular backing the PLO chairman enjoys in the occupied territories and elsewhere, but said that they are concerned that the Palestinian revolution and Fateh in particular should stay away from "capitulatory settlements that threaten the unity and even the existence of the PLO."

Whereas the "rejectionist" statement was signed by 34 members, there was no accurate number available for the signatories of the statement which supported Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo.

The communique stated that the signatories supported "any step that could help disentangle Egypt from the Camp David accords."

A number of PNC members living in Amman, however, expressed determination not to allow Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo to cause further discussion in the PLO. "Regardless of our different opinions, our main goal at this stage is to preserve the unity of the PLO," they said.

Meanwhile, according to Palestinian sources here Mr. Arafat faces no danger of being toppled by his Fateh's Central Committee nor by the PLO Executive Committee in case of attempts to oust the Palestinian leader through democratic means.

The sources said that Mr. Arafat enjoys the full support of the 11-member Fateh Central Committee. The Central Committee originally comprised 15 members, but two were assassinated and two others were sacked for leading the Fateh rebellion.

Mr. Majed Abu Sharar was assassinated in Rome two years ago, while Col. Sa'ed Sail was killed in an ambush in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley last year. The other two are Nimr Saleh and Samih Abu Kweik who led the rebellion against Mr. Arafat's leadership.

The sources added that Mr. Arafat enjoys the backing of eight of the 15 member of the PLO Executive Committee.

According to the sources, the eight, who support the PLO leader are Farouk Al Kaddoumi, Mahmoud Abbas (both from Fateh), Mr. Abdul Rahim Ahmad (leader of the Arab Liberation Front), Mr. Mohammed Zuhdi Al Nashashibi, Mr. Jamal Al Sorani, Dr. Hanna Nasir, Dr. Ahmad Sidki Al Dajani and Mr. Hamed Abu Sittah.



# MIDDLE EAST

## Turkish Cypriot opposition tables no confidence motion

NICOSIA (R) — The main opposition party in northern Cyprus' constituent assembly has tabled a motion of no confidence in the interim government of Prime Minister Nejat Konuk, official sources said Wednesday.

They said the motion, tabled by the Communal Liberation Party, TKP, came after the assembly completed debate on the government's policy programme Tuesday night.

It said the government, appointed until elections are held next year following ratification of a new constitution, was based on an

assembly set up by unconstitutional methods.

The constituent assembly was set up to replace an elected 40-member legislature following the unilateral declaration of an independent Turkish Cypriot state of Northern Cyprus on Nov. 15.

The TKP has 11 seats in the old chamber and the other opposition

group, the Turkish Republican Party, six. But their influence was correspondingly reduced by the appointment of 30 non-elected members to the new chamber.

The official sources said the no confidence motion thus had little, if any chance of success, adding it had not yet been decided if the motion would be put before the chamber in any case.

The 1975 constitution, drawn up after the Turkish invasion the previous year which divided the island into Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities, does not require approval by the assembly

of the government programme, although it does provide for no confidence motions.

The two opposition parties opposed Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş's declaration of independence, but voted for it in the old chamber to preserve Turkish Cypriot solidarity.

So far only mainland Turkey has recognised the new state, and the Greek Cypriot administration in the South remains generally recognised internationally as the legitimate government of the whole of Cyprus.

## Shamir, Peres hit U.S. stand on Cairo talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli opposition leader Shimon Peres joined Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday in deploping U.S. endorsement of last week's meeting between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Shamir told a meeting of the Knesset (parliament) Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that "American endorsement of the meeting was a blow to peace in our region."

## Egyptian minister flies to Sudan

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali left Cairo for Khartoum Wednesday to brief Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri on the outcome of last Thursday's meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

He will deliver a message from Mubarak to the Sudanese leader on the meeting, the first between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Arafat and an Egyptian president for six years.

Foreign Ministry officials said, Mr. Ali will also brief Sudanese officials on his recent talks in Washington with President Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the officials said.

## Gulf-Iran passenger line to start soon

SHARJAH (R) — The first regular passenger shipping line from Iran to a Gulf state will start next month between the southern Iranian Port of Bandar Abbas and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the line's agents said Wednesday.

The Islamic Republic Shipping Lines plans a twice-weekly liner service from mid-January to the Emirate of Sharjah, a spokesman for the agents, Unimarine SA, told Reuters.

The ship, the Japanese-built 350-passenger "Iran Hormuz-1", which can also hold 110 cars, was

expected to take about 10 hours to complete the 110-mile crossing, he said.

Fares would be less than half the cost of air travel and travellers would be able to carry 50 kilograms of baggage free of charge, with nominal excess rates.

The service is aimed partly at the roughly 250,000 workers from southern Iran in the UAE, but the line would also promote tourist attractions in Iran, including fully-developed ski resorts, he said.

In a despatch from Tehran, the

official Iranian News Agency IRNA said earlier this month a company had also been established to buy 20 ships for passenger use in the Gulf.

One had already been purchased from Japan with a capacity of 400 passengers to travel between the ports of Chah Bahar and Kenarak.

Future plans included passenger services from Iran's Bushehr Port to Kuwait and Qatar, and after the end of the present war with Iraq, between Khramshahr and Kuwait, it said.

## Soviet Jewish emigration falls sharply

NEW YORK (R) — A U.S. monitoring organisation said Tuesday the number of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union fell to a 20-year-low this year and the Reagan administration said this showed "Moscow still had a policy of anti-Semitism."

By the end of 1983 only 1,317 Jews would have emigrated from the Soviet Union, the greater New York conference on Soviet Jewry said.

This was the lowest number in 20 years and a drop of 98 per cent from the peak year of 1979, 51,320 Jews were granted exit permits, it added.

Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Elliott Abrams, appearing at the press conference

that announced the figures, accused the Soviet Union of "lying" when it insisted that the low figure for 1983 meant that all the Jews "who wanted to leave have left."

Mr. Abrams changed that the "forced" decline in numbers was "an unmitigated act of evil" against which the United States will protest at every meeting it has with Soviet officials.

He blamed it on several factors including sour relations between the United States and the Soviet Union after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

He said there were two new factors in Soviet attitudes towards Jews, the creation of an anti-Zionist committee with branches across the Soviet Union and a rec-

ent provision in the Russian penal code in which prison terms for dissidents can be extended.

In 1982, 2,688 Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union — more than twice the 1983 figure.

**Ship missing in Mediterranean**  
ISTANBUL (R) — A 1,000-ton Panamanian-registered coaster, Ghina-3, has been missing in the Mediterranean for 18 days while travelling between southern Turkey and north Cyprus, port officials said. They said nothing had been heard from the coaster, which had a cargo of grain, since it left the Turkish port of Iskenderun.

## French troops fire back at gunmen

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen opened up on a French patrol with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades in Beirut Tuesday night and paratroopers returned fire, a French spokesman said.

Colonel Philippe de Longeaux reported no casualties among the Frenchmen nor damage to their two vehicles.

He said the patrol was driving along the Bechara Al Khoury Boulevard, not far from French headquarters, when the gunmen opened fire.

It was the latest in a series of attacks against French troops of the Multinational Force in Beirut.

## Italian troops return home from Lebanon

ROME (R) — Two hundred forty-nine soldiers from the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force in Beirut returned home early Wednesday on a special flight from Cyprus, the Defence Ministry said.

Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini announced last week that Italy would begin a phased and partial withdrawal of its 2,000 strong contingent, but a ministry spokesman could not say whether this withdrawal had begun or whether the soldiers would be replaced.

## Lebanese newspaper suspended for 1 day

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's leading left-wing daily, Al Safir, was suspended by the government for one day Wednesday, apparently for violating censorship rules.

The authorities did not explain why the action was taken but the independent Arab News Agency said the shutdown was the result of a front-page editorial, Tuesday, attacking the government and accusing it of "deciding to commit suicide by invading the southern outskirts of the capital."

## Jackson may delay trip to Syria

WASHINGTON (R) — Presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson said Tuesday he would not go to Syria to seek the release of a captured U.S. pilot if President Reagan asked him to do so.

Rev. Jackson, a black civil rights leader seeking the Democratic nomination, has announced plans to fly to Damascus to discuss the release of navy Lieutenant Robert Goodman, also a black, held by Syria after he was shot down over Lebanon on Dec. 4.

His proposed mission, planned after an invitation by Syria's ambassador to Washington, has caused concern in the White House and State Department which said

Tuesday that such private contacts could be "self-defeating".

After meeting senior State Department officials Tuesday, Rev. Jackson left open the possibility that he might not make the trip, saying: "at this point we would not go in defiance of him (Reagan)."

He also appeared to set further conditions on his trip — that he meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Lt. Goodman and that the black airman was about to return home.

If these conditions were not met it would have an effect on the timing of his trip, he said.



Jesse Jackson

## Social conscience persuades Englishman to join PLO

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuters

BEIRUT — The blonde, blue-eyed fighter stood out from his darker Palestinian colleagues aboard the Greek liner which took PLO leader Yasser Arafat and 1,200 of his commandos through the Suez Canal last week.

Ian Davison, 26-year-old joiner from South Shields in northeast England, was one of the latest recruits into "Squad 17", the fighting unit closest to the Palestinian leader.

Without any military training and with only a smattering of Arabic, he went into battle in Baddawi Refugee Camp near the north Lebanese port of Tripoli only hours after stepping off a Cypriot coaster in early November.

"They just gave me a Kalashnikov (automatic rifle), showed me how to use it and put me in a unit to fend for myself," Davison told Reuters aboard the Odysseas Elytis.

Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels had already started their assault on Mr. Arafat's north Lebanese strongholds and there was little time for formal training.

Davison had his baptism of fire even before stepping foot on land — the coaster was shelled in harbor and later sank.

A few days later while sheltering in a grocer's shop on the Baddawi main street, Davison saw

two of his new mates badly mutilated by shrapnel. The fighter sitting on his right lost an eye, the one on his left had a deep gash in the leg.

During the loyalist withdrawal from the camp around Nov. 17, the Englishman found himself crouching alone behind a rusty old Caterpillar with a group of three rebels advancing over a sand-dune.

"I stuck my head up and fired a whole clip towards them. I knew they'd fire back so I hit the deck and waited."

"My heart was throbbing like crazy. An RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) came in and exploded five yards away. But I was lying in a hollow and nothing touched me."

Davison, now in North Yemen with most of the Arafat loyalists from the Tripoli area, said joining the PLO was a reaction to three years in the United States.

"I was living the good life, without any social conscience, then I decided to help the Palestinians in a real way, not just from a distance."

A friend in South Shields had the idea of joining the PLO, but he chose to stay in England for the sake of his wife and children, Davison said.

As the mutiny against Mr. Arafat spread during the summer, Davison decided to act. He first made contact with the PLO in

Athens but was referred to the Damascus office.

By the time he reached the Syrian capital Mr. Arafat's offices were winding up their business there, so he went on to Amman, Jordan, where the PLO office spent six days testing his commitment and vetting him for security.

When approval came through they gave him money, a ticket to the Cypriot port of Larnaca and the address of the man who would arrange the voyage from Cyprus to Tripoli.

As a commando, Davison received in Lebanon a salary of \$170 a month, plus food, board and all essential supplies.

"People assume you do it for the money, but the money isn't much and you don't need it anyway," he said.

The Englishman said he was pleasantly surprised by the kindness and bravery of his comrades.

"They'd take one look at you, see you hadn't slept for days, lie you down, give you food, a cup of tea, right in the middle of the battle," he said.

But some of the commandos, especially the Lebanese auxiliaries in Tripoli, were quick to disappear as soon as there was work to be done such as filling sand bags or "keeping the place shipshape", he added.

## TV & RADIO

### JORDAN TELEVISION

23:00 News Summary  
24:00 Close Down

### MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Koran  
16:45 Cartoon  
17:10 Children's Programmes  
18:25 We Are Moving  
18:50 Programmes Review  
19:30 Local Competition Programmes  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Arabic Play  
21:00 News in Arabic  
23:10 Play Contd.

### FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme  
19:00 News in French  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:30 Barney Miller: The Slave  
21:00 100 Great Paintings  
21:10 Love Boat  
22:00 News in English  
22:15 Feature Film: We Are Fighting Back — Kevin Mohan, Paul McCrane

### RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show  
07:30 News Bulletin  
07:40 Morning Show  
08:00 News Summary  
08:30 Morning Show  
08:45 Morning Show  
09:00 News Bulletin  
09:15 Instrumentals  
09:30 The Young Sound  
09:45 Concert Hour  
10:00 News Summary  
10:15 Adventure Stories  
10:30 Special Feature, Pop Session  
10:40 News Summary  
10:50 Music  
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## WHAT'S GOING ON

### TODAY'S EVENTS

Ballet

\* Ballet theatre Du Silence performs at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8 p.m.

### EXHIBITION

\* Orientalist paintings, at the Alia Art Gallery on Thursday and Friday.

### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7  
American Centre 44371  
British Council 41520  
French Cultural Centre 37049  
Goethe Institute 41993  
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203  
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049  
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777  
Haya Arts Centre 665195  
Husseini Youth City 667181  
Y.W.C.A. 41793  
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251  
Amman Municipal Library 361111  
University of Jordan Library 843555

### MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 16th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays). Tel. 30128.

Maryam's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from 1918 to 1948.

### PRAYER TIMES

05:09 Sunrise  
06:37 Sunrise  
11:38 Dhuhr  
14:21 Asr  
16:38 Maghrib  
18:36 Isha

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (06) 53250, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

07:00 Cairo (EA)  
08:05 Amman (KA)  
09:15 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RU)  
09:30 Jeddah (RU)  
09:45 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RU)  
09:55 Kuwait (RU)  
10:05 Cairo (RU)  
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#### DEPARTURES

05:45 Cairo (RU)  
06:30 Damascus (RU)  
06:45 Beirut (RU)  
06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)  
07:00 Amman (KA)  
07:10 Damascus, Paris (AF)  
08:00 Cairo (EA)  
08:05 Beirut (MEA)  
08:10 Damascus, Athens, Geneva, (SR)  
10:45 Athens (RU)  
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RU)  
11:15 Larnaca (CY)  
11:30 Cairo (RU)  
11:45 Frankfurt, Brussels (RU)  
12:00 Paris, London (RU)  
12:10 Riyadh, Doha (RU)  
12:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
14:30 Cairo (RU)  
15:00 Amman (KA)

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with cloud at different altitudes. Light and variable winds will be changing to southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.

Amman 15, Amman 21, Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Amman 21, Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.

Amman 15, Amman 21, Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Amman 21, Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

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Low/high temperature in deg. C.

Amman 15, Amman 21, Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Amman 33 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

### EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111  
Fire, fire, police 194  
Blood bank 75121  
Civil Defence rescue 661111  
Fire headquarters 22090-3  
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777  
Police headquarters 30141  
Traffic police 56304-1  
Electric Power Co. 36301-2  
Municipal water service 71125-8  
Queen Alia Int. Airport (108) 53333

### HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813-32  
Rahidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-1  
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44241-1  
Jabal Amman Maternity 42562  
Salha, J. Amman 34141  
Palestine, Shamsan 664171-4  
Shamsan Hospital 666131  
University Hospital 667158  
Al-Mushtak Hospital 66227-9  
The Islamic, Abdali 665292  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164  
Italian, Al-Muhareen 77101-3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111  
Army, Marka 91611

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad M. Abbad 78959  
Beirut: Dr. Zaid Jaradat 5733

### ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 86432

### GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111  
Radio Jordan 74111  
Ministry of Tourism 42311  
Hotel complaints 66612  
Police complaints 661176  
Telephone: Information 12  
Jordan and Middle East calls 10  
Overseas calls 17  
Cable or telegram 11  
Repair service 11

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apple (Double Red) 350/300  
Apple (Golden) 350/300  
Apple (Stark) 320/280  
Apple (Smith) 320/280  
Apple (local) 220/180  
Banana 270/220  
Banana (Mukammal) 230/200  
Beans 250/220  
Cabbage 70



## HOME NEWS

## Palestine stamp issued

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Communications Monday issued a memorial stamp about Palestine to commemorate the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian people on Nov. 29.

The new stamp will be distributed for public use at all post offices as of Tuesday.

Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben said that the stamp is being issued in compliance with the ministry's policy of celebrating all national occasions, and is an expression of Jordanian solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

The new issue, the revenues of which will be used to assist families of Palestinian martyrs, comprises stamps one of five and one of ten fils in value, with a picture of the Dome of the Rock wrapped in the Jordanian flag.

## JTV to introduce idea of Teletext information

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television, in cooperation with the French company Sofratev, will hold a seminar Wednesday Nov. 30 on the Teletext system in the conference hall of the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

The seminar programme will include lectures and discussions on the teletext system. It is a commercial information system which transmits information in writing and tabulation form through television frequencies.

The viewer can choose such programmes through the medium of the television screen by the use of a simple control device, provided an additional teletext decoder is attached.

The information can either be comprehensive or in the form of brief news items from around the world. It can also be used to include bulletins from different government departments, announcements, financial information, weather reports, air flights, advertisements, sports results, prices of consumer commodities amongst many others.

This information can be modified or changed constantly in accordance with events, and the viewer can watch the TV transmission all day.

This television service has already proved successful in the United States, Australia, United Kingdom, West Germany, Belgium, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and many other countries.

## Surgery corrects deformity

AMMAN (Petra) — An operation for the adjustment of a deformed rib cage was performed at Al Bashir government hospital Monday by Dr. Said Al Fayyumi.

Dr. Fayyumi said that the operation is the first to have been undertaken at Al Bashir Hospital, and its success will help a great number of people overcome the physical and psychologically negative impact of such a deformity, which, among other things, restricts the heart from functioning properly.

Dr. Fayyumi added that the patient usually feels a great relief even only 24 hours after the operation, which is reflected in his psychological condition.

Assisting Dr. Fayyumi in the operation, which took three and a half hours, were Dr. Hamdi Abu Al Adas and Dr. Hassan Darweesh.

## British Council employee receives OBE award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Catherine Khoury, the administration officer in the direct teaching of English operation at the British Council, Sunday night was presented with the award of Member of the Order of the British Empire by the British Ambassador to Jordan, Alan Urwick.

In his speech at the presentation, Mr. Urwick said that Miss Khoury has been in continuous employment with the British Council here since the council first opened an office in Jordan in May 1948.

Until 1980 she was employed as the representative's personal assistant in which capacity she served a succession of representatives.

In October 1980, following a serious illness, she retired; but subsequently resumed work at the British Council.

Her administrative abilities and skill in public relations have contributed in no small measure to the success of this English teaching operation, Mr. Urwick said.

It was in recognition of these long years of dedicated and distinguished service that this award was made, he added.

## JD 776.7 million budget presented

(Continued from page 1)

and payment of interests on time in order to secure its ability to borrow from international markets when needed.

— To continue to support the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories and to fulfil government pledges to them.

— To attain one of the main goals of the five-year plan represented, namely achieve self-reliance.

In order to achieve this goal, the estimated local revenues in next year's budget will be enough to cover all the estimated recurrent expenditures. A goal that the five-year plan stated should be achieved in 1985, the last year of the plan.

— To expand the modern living requirements, by providing water and electricity to vast areas in the Kingdom and to all population concentrations, and by connecting them with necessary roads for this JD 32,000,000 were allocated to roads network, JD 47,000,000 for water projects and JD 29,000,000 for electricity projects.

Also JD 500,000 (part of the revenues generated from fuel sales) in addition to the sum of rural taxes, estimated at JD 1,800,000 will ensure the quick implementation of a country-wide electricity network coverage and to choose the right time to begin the work.

— Despite the fact that the government has a trend towards the rationalisation of its subsidies for consumer commodities and to lower them the minimum, it will continue subsidising fuel, energy and some basic foodstuff. To keep the cost of fuel and wheat down, the budget includes a JD 18 million and a JD 12 million subsidy figure for these areas respectively.

The finance minister explained that the estimated local revenues for 1984 is JD 449 million compared to 1983's JD 424 million, which was reestimated at JD 396 million. This amount was increased by JD 53 million for next year which constitutes an increase of 5.9 per cent on this year's estimated revenues and 13.4 per cent on this year's reestimated revenues.

Arab aid for 1984 is expected to reach JD 183 million as compared to this year's JD 215 million that is JD 32 million less than this year's amount.

Foreign and local loans are estimated at JD 21 million and loans allocated for development projects are estimated at JD 106 million compared to JD 86 million this year, which reflects an increase of JD 20 million for 1984.

The finance minister said that the 1984 recurrent expenditures were estimated at JD 452,525,000 compared to JD 171,448,000 this year which was reestimated to JD 448,980,000. This means that next year's recurrent expenditure will not exceed this year's amount for more than JD 3,545,000.

The minister said that the 1984 capital expenditures, including development and other expenditures, are estimated at JD 218,175,000 of which JD 73,275,000 is for instalments of loan repayments and liabilities. Expenses estimated for financing loans amount to JD 106 million and the ordinary and developmental capital expenses next year will be JD 324,175,000.

The NCC referred the draft budget to its Financial Committee.

Classifying the expenditure by sectors it was divided according to the following:

Capital expenditure and expenditure allocated for projects

1) General management JD 4,228,000

2) Defence and security JD 204,627,000

3) International affairs JD 5,928,000

4) Financial administration, JD 223,560,000

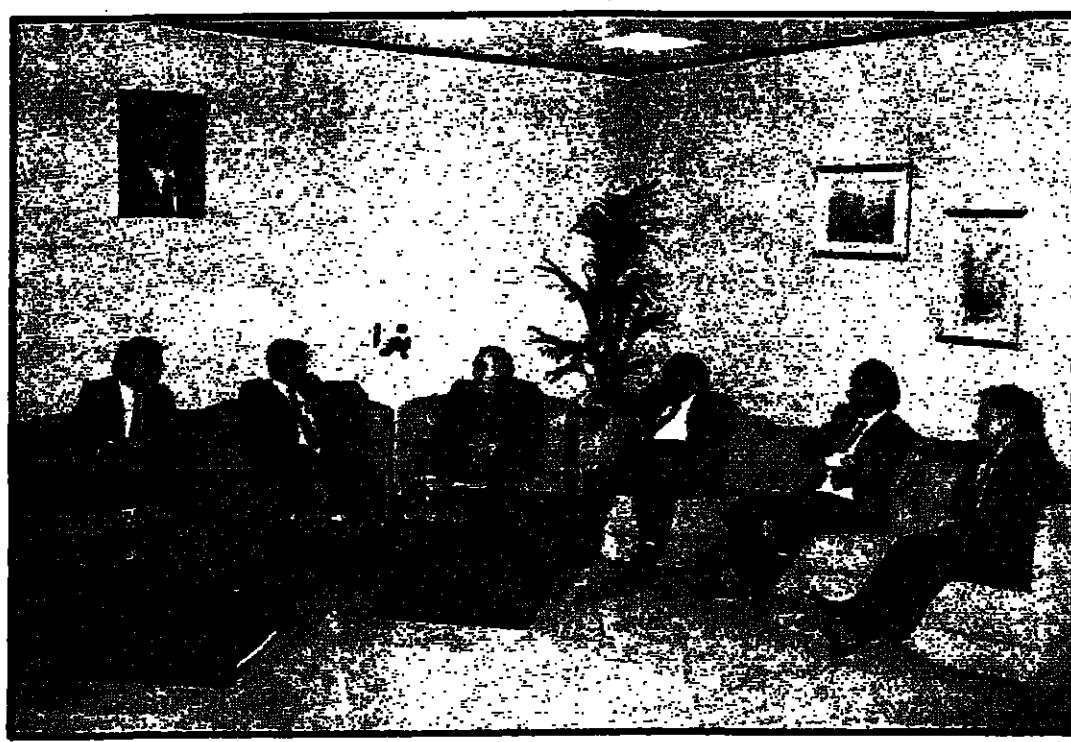
5) Economic development JD 207,884,000

6) Social services JD 90,148,000

7) Information and cultural services JD 10,456,000

8) Transportation and communication JD 29,969,000

Total JD 776,700,000



The press delegation from the Union of Journalists in the Soviet Union seen here Monday shortly after their arrival on a week long visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

## Soviet press delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A press delegation from the Union of Journalists in the Soviet Union arrived here Monday on a one-week visit to Jordan with in the framework of exchange visits between the Soviet body and the Jordanian Journalists Association.

The association has prepared a programme for its guest delegation which includes meetings with a number of officials and tours of prominent development projects in Jordan.

The Soviet delegation includes the head of developing countries section at the Pravda newspaper, the senior political commentator

from Izvestia and two members of the board of the Union of the Journalists of the Soviet Union.

They were received by Jordanian Journalists Association and Ministry of Information officials, the Soviet charge d'affaire and the press attache at the Soviet embassy here.

The project includes the construction of diversionary and cement-mix dams on subsidiary streams to be installed in storing poles, which in turn will pump stored waters into a network of major and subsidiary pipes for irrigation purposes.

The project also includes the construction of 200 kilometres of

## Pertini tours Italian backed irrigation project

AL KARAK (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday morning accompanied visiting Italian President Sandro Pertini on a tour of the south Jordan Valley, where he viewed the South Ghor irrigation project currently being implemented by the Italian firm of Impresit.

Jordan Valley Authority President Munther Haddadin expressed in a speech of welcome to Mr. Pertini his high appreciation of the assistance extended by the Italian government for the implementation of development projects in Jordan.

He pointed out that the project under execution aims at improving the economic situation in the area, which is inhabited by 2,000 families.

The project will irrigate 46,000 dunums of farming lots comprising 30 dunums each. Out of the total amount, 26,000 reclaimed dunums will be in Ghor Al Safi. Dr. Haddadin said.

The project includes the construction of diversionary and cement-mix dams on subsidiary streams to be installed in storing poles, which in turn will pump stored waters into a network of major and subsidiary pipes for irrigation purposes.

The project also includes the construction of 200 kilometres of

Mr. Pertini with a commemorative gift while the Impresit director gave the King a present as well.

The King and Mr. Pertini were accompanied on their tour by the accompanying Italian delegation.

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Pertini, his delegation and the King visited the ancient Jordanian city of Petra, where they were received by Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar. Earlier, on Sunday evening, Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor gave a dinner at Al Nadwa in honour of President Pertini.

The dinner was attended by His Highness Prince Mohammed, Her Highness Princess Basma and Her Highness Princess Taghrid.

The dinner was also attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Lawzi, Court-Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and their wives.

A number of accompanying delegation members and the Italian ambassador to Jordan Marquis Fabrizio Rossi-Longhi also attended.

President Pertini presented Queen Noor with the order of merit of the Italian Republic on the occasion.

## Joint Arab aviation planning meeting inaugurated

AMMAN — "Strategic planning" is the title of a three-day seminar organised by the Boeing Corporation and sponsored by the Arab Air Cargo Organisation (AACO).

The seminar started Monday and will run until Wednesday here at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

On the opening day of the seminar, member airlines' planning and marketing executives discussed a broad range of issues affecting their strategic planning capabilities and efforts.

During the seminar, Fahd Faneh, vice-president Finance of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, deputised for Chairman Ali Ghandour in delivering a welcoming speech on behalf of Alia as

the host country's national carrier. The seminar was attended by representatives from 13 Arab airlines as well as from Alia's planning, marketing and sales departments.

Amer Sharif, director-general of AACO, told the Jordan Times that there are seven experts from the international Boeing Corporation participating in the seminar who will deliver lectures on the latest developments in the field of aviation.

They will also submit studies made on ways of improving procedures already being used by most air carrier organisations.

The AACO was established in 1965 and comprises all 18 Arab airlines as its members.

Expenditure on loan-financed projects is estimated at JD 106,000,000 bringing overall expenditure (ordinary and development) in 1984 to JD 324,175,000.

By comparing the estimates for expenditure (JD 776,700,000) with those for revenues and loans (JD 759,000,000) a deficit of JD 17,700,000 is anticipated i.e. 2.6 per cent of the first section of the budget and 3.9 per cent of local revenues.

The general budget comprised a backing of JD 37,000,000 to Jordan universities and independent public institutions which engage in education, housing, water supplies, training, orientation, co-operation and other basic services.

The anticipated expenditure by these public independent institutions may exceed JD 450 million which, if added to the total anticipated expenditure in this budget, would raise overall expenditure in 1984 to JD 1,225 billion.

The NCC referred the draft budget to its Financial Committee.

Classifying the expenditure by sectors it was divided according to the following:

Capital expenditure and expenditure allocated for projects

1) General management JD 4,228,000

2) Defence and security JD 204,627,000

3) International affairs JD 5,928,000

4) Financial administration, JD 223,560,000

5) Economic development JD 207,884,000

6) Social services JD 90,148,000

7) Information and cultural services JD 10,456,000

8) Transportation and communication JD 29,969,000

Total JD 776,700,000



The three-day seminar organised by Boeing and sponsored by the Arab Air Cargo Organisation opens at the Holiday Inn Hotel here Monday (Petra photo)

Marketing conference

Meanwhile, the annual conference of the Alia marketing and sales operation has been scheduled to be held here between Dec. 13 and 15 and will include celebrations of Alia's 20th anniversary.

The forthcoming conference

will be attended by all Alia area managers with the exception of North America where a separate conference will be held.

All marketing proposals will be received by the planning department by the end of November to be ready for the conference.

S. N.

## Air cargo accord signed

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Arab Air Cargo Salah Hussein returned here Monday after a visit to Kuwait where he signed an air freight agreement with Kuwaiti Airways.

Under the agreement, the AAC will operate on regular weekly flight to Kuwait from the beginning of December.

The signing of this agreement is in line with the AACO plan which aims at expanding its route network to link Jordan and Iraq with Arab and world capitals.

which are "internationally marketable" and with exception of vegetables and fruits which are exported to neighbouring Arab countries. Most of the other industries were basically established to meet the needs of the local market with the purpose of minimising the chronic deficit in the balance of trade. The prices of the products of these industries are not competitive compared with the prices of similar imported products, yet these industries were allowed to "survive" under the protection of high tariff walls, he added.

Mr. Tijani pointed out that neither sales opportunity research nor sales effort research is being carried out by the private sector in Jordan, with exception to market research as part of the initial feasibility studies carried out by a few local and foreign management or industrial consultants operating in the country. The other more common types of research study, such as product research, sales organisation research, channels of distribution and advertising research are more or less non-existent, he said.

According to Mr. Tijani, it is the duty of the public sector in the first place to organise an aggressive and comprehensive marketing campaign for the current 1981-1985 five-year social and economic development plan. "Regrettably", he added, "no organised marketing plan has yet been worked out in this respect with the exception of the personal and continuing efforts of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. "I believe that the promotion of Jordanian products abroad, Mr. Tijani suggested that the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the Amman Chamber of Industry, as well as the Ministry of Industry and Trade should in collaboration with the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, establish an institute that would graduate qualified marketing managers. "But", he pointed out, "there is no point establishing such an institute, unless those responsible for guiding the destiny of industry in Jordan realise that they can no longer depend on casual personal contacts and personal impressions when taking decisions pertinent to their business operations."

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## Wasfi Tal's death marked

AMMAN (J.T.) — Monday, Nov. 28 marked the twelfth anniversary of the death of the late Jordanian Premier Wasfi Al Tal, a prominent figure in the country's political history and a tough advocate of Jordan's self-sufficiency and reliance.

The late prime minister was assassinated on Nov. 28, 1971 while attending a meeting of Arab defence ministers in Cairo.

In a statement on forming his first cabinet in 1962, Mr. Tal stressed the need for making the best of available national resources for modernising Jordan to cope with the requirements of a rapidly-developing world and a sweeping scientific and technological revolution.

Mr. Tal was a strident advocate of the mobilisation of Jordan's national and human resources in order to create a society capable of confronting the continued Zionist threat to Jordan.

Henceforth, he always adopted an outlook calling for the organisation of the Jordanian society on solid foundations of integrity to face pressing circumstances.

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# Jordan Times

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## Record speaks for itself

If you have never heard of a guy called Elliott Abrams, here is your best chance of doing so. The man, with the title U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights, was in the news circulating all over the world yesterday. He was charging Moscow of adopting an official policy of anti-Semitism for not letting more than 1,307 Jews emigrate from the Soviet Union during 1983.

Appearing at a press conference for an organization called "the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry" on Wednesday, Abrams accused the Soviet authorities of "lying" for insisting that the low figure of 1983 meant that all the Jews "who wanted to leave have left". Yet, he managed to blame the "forced" decline in numbers of Jewish emigrants on several factors including sour relations between Washington and Moscow after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

What the chief authority on human rights in America failed to see, however, is the connection between the "problem" of Soviet Jewry and the Palestinian problem. And if he did see it, he chose to ignore it — completely.

The U.S. is in fact making a mockery of its policy in defence of the "rights" of Soviet Jews on the one hand and continuing to ignore the rights of the Palestinian people on the other. How are we to believe, indeed who is to believe, that the Americans are qualified to dub the Soviet Union anti-Semitic for its refusal to let more of its citizens leave the country when the U.S. itself can all too easily be accused of being anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian — and we are Semites as well?

Have Washington and the world not seen enough of Israeli repression against the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories to want to see more Jews join in the displacement of the rest of Palestinians from their homes and land? And is Abrams, and his likes really serious about thinking that the Soviets and the rest of the world will play their discordant tune just to please domestic politics in the U.S.?

This talk is not to defend the policy and the actions of the Soviet Union — the Soviets can do that for themselves. It is to remind the Americans that their record on human rights in 1983 is still far from being thorough and honest — and is too poor to be taken seriously, anyway.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: The responsibility is Lebanon's

THE CYCLE of violence has returned to Lebanon. The recent fighting has removed all optimism for a speedy solution and increased the agony of the Lebanese people. The Arab masses had thought that the past sacrifices and the lesson learnt over the past eight years would be heeded and that national reconciliation will replace the internal fighting and the factional violence. We have to remind all parties to the conflict that all factions and groups that were involved in the past fighting had lost the battle.

All factions and all groups had lost to the Israelis because they alone are the winners of inter-Arab conflict. The Israelis and the Americans have maintained that the fighting was due to the presence of the Palestinian fighters. But these Palestinians have now left the country and the fighting continues unabated.

Of course the Israelis and the Americans are to blame for many acts of violence, but the Lebanese factions bear the prime responsibility for the continued conflict and the bloodshed. They have to speed up their reconciliation talks to arrive at a solution and the Arab countries should help them to do so.

### Al Dustour: Why Israel is so busy?

AS THE Arabs are bogged down in their little disputes and internal conflicts, the Israelis continue to consolidate their hold over the occupied Arab lands and to Judaize Arab territory.

As the events in Lebanon were going on, the Israelis have been busy evicting Arab inhabitants from their homeland, building settlements on their usurped land and forcibly removing the inhabitants of refugee camps to new sites, easier for the authorities to control.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens has announced that the removal of the refugees from their present camps is designed to maintain Israel's security. The Israelis have drawn up plans for removing the refugees and have carried these plans to the United States to obtain support and raise funds for the project.

These Israeli measures are designed to weaken Arab resistance and force the population to abandon their homeland.

Jordan has often drawn other Arab states' attention to these arbitrary measures and Israel's plans. We must again warn the Arab World and other nations of Israeli practices, and call on Arab countries to end their differences and confront the danger threatening their future.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's ultimate goal

IN HIS address to the European Parliament earlier this month, His Majesty King Hussein warned of the danger inherent in Israel's plans in the occupied Arab territories, and referred in particular to Israel's intention of removing the refugee camps as a step towards ending the refugee problem.

This step paves the way for the ultimate goal of evicting the refugees from their homeland altogether. What King Hussein warned against is now materialising and taking shape in the West Bank. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens visited Duhish refugee camp Tuesday to discuss with his military aides how and when to embark on the project, and to view the situation closely.

Israel's plans have been drawn up approved by Washington and made ready to implement while the Arabs were and still are engaged in their little wars, their internal differences and conflicts.

The Arab Nation as a whole is called on to take a joint action and abort Israel's plans, and the international community and the United Nations must also shoulder part of the responsibility and put an end to Israel's illegal actions and practices.

## RED & BLACK

# The top ten economic events of 1983

By Jawad Ahmad

THE HARD year of 1983 is about to sink in the sea of oblivion. While a new year is about to set in, it may be useful to pay homage and tribute to the departing one. Red and Black has been doing this for quite a spell, and it has been a habit to choose 10 big economic events in the years past labelling them as the "top ten".

1983 is characterised in my opinion by three major attributes. First, liberation from certain pseudo-socialistic attitudes and the prevalence of the thought that governments should not replace the private sector nor should they exercise extensive price controls in order to regulate. Second, there is a creeping trend, even among the public, towards isolation — the feeling that we can stand alone if others choose to do likewise. Third, and related to the second, the prevalence of self-reliance as a concept with the realisation

that it can be painful.

With these moods in mind, here are the biggest ten economic events or changes of 1983:

1. Budget law 1984: The importance of this event lies in the new concepts which it adopted such as the equalisation between recurrent expenditures and domestic revenues, and the trimming of capital expenditures in order to fit them in the narrower external aid pipe. The budget is aimed at boosting Jordan's economic morale by demonstrating that Jordan can adjust to the winds of change. It is an austerity plan.

2. Economic slowdown: A hot debate ensued this year on whether the Jordanian economy is passing through a recession or through a slowdown. So far, it is a slowdown in the sense that it is the rate of growth that went down and not

the economy itself. Even so, a rate of growth less than five per cent has been recorded for the first time since 1973.

3. Foreign labour: As signs of occasional unemployment begin to invade the Jordanian economy, there are louder voices calling for ending the free policy of importing foreign labour. This issue is important because it signifies latent fears and the realisation that foreign competition is not all that healthy. Moreover, the rise in the number of house maids is viewed as social deterioration as well.

4. Jordanisation of banks: This issue so far has not been completed. Yet it is expected to be approved this year and the negotiation battle will reach its zenith in 1984. This issue will be blown beyond life size thus creating deep interest particularly by Jordanians.

5. Transport slump: No event has left its deep scar on

the Jordanian economy than the slump which took place in the transport sector. More than 7,000 trucks stood idle representing about 5400-5000 million. Jordan had to take the tough decision also of choosing between boosting this ailing sector by ignoring road safety and conservation regulations or upholding them. A formula was eventually found — which may salvage this sector.

6. The rise of Social Security: Nobody — almost nobody — believed, six years ago, that this small budding institute would rise like King Kong to scare the city. Social Security is on its way to household stardom and is now a main source of investable funds in Jordan. With its \$250 million in assets at the end of this year, it will be the "buddy" to please in years of slowdown. The recent purchase of hotels and resthouses at JD 21 million demonstrates its affluence.

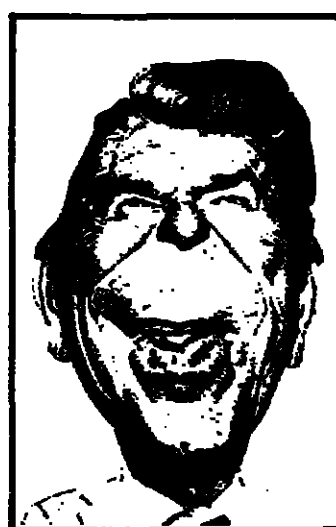
7. New customs law: This is a very important law because it signified the abolishment of a law that constrained Jordan's business for sometime. Unifications of customs laws with Arab countries is not a feasible event. Thus, Jordan's new law looks inward and meets Jordan's commercial and industrial needs as such.

8. New projects: The most important two projects of 1983 are the Queen Alia International Airport introducing Jordan to tourists in a grand way. This \$280 million project is a triumph of thrift and beauty. The other important project in the fertilisers plant is Aqaba transferring Jordan into a country of raw and finished phosphate exporters.

9. Protocol with Egypt: Jordan became in 1983 a target destination of many world leaders and officials and thinkers, and specialists. These led to

many crucial outcomes. The recent signature of a trade protocol with Egypt stirred the largest reaction on political grounds. If implemented it would go a long way in boosting Jordan's trade and normalising economic relations with two traditional trade partners.

10. The agricultural debate: Agriculture is a sector that is often misunderstood. This year it became the champion of rural development, return to nature, redistributor of wealth and population. A hot debate took place in the National Consultative Council (NCC) over such issues as marketing, pricing, fertilisers, agricultural patterns, etc. Important recommendations were made. The most important reaction was the creation of the new "Jordan Marketing Corporation" with a capital of JD 10 million to cater for agricultural products.



## East-West missile crisis, Lebanon, Iran-Iraq war, Grenada and C. America have topped universal year agenda

# 1983: International tension, an unresolved economic crisis still plague the human scene, inflict suffering

By Irena Czekierska

Reuter

LONDON — Worsening East-West relations and conflicts in the Middle East and Central America raised international tension in 1983, a year in which the superpowers stopped talking about nuclear arms reductions.

United States medium-range nuclear weapons began arriving in Western Europe and talks between the Soviet Union and the U.S. aimed at cutting their arsenals broke off with no dates set for their resumption.

As the year closes, at least five areas are still being torn by constant fighting: Lebanon, the Gulf, Afghanistan, Central America and Kampuchea. In Chad, a 17-year conflict flared anew.

Three dramatic events captured international attention: The Soviet shooting down of a South Korean airliner with 269 people on board, the American-led invasion of Grenada and suicide car bomb attacks on Multinational troops in Beirut.

Hardly a day passed without word of the crisis in Lebanon, of internal fighting among Palestinian and religious factions, of attacks against occupying Israeli forces, and of tentative ceasefires frequently broken.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the war between Iran and Iraq entered its fourth year despite United Nations and Arab attempts to bring peace to the Gulf.

Afghanistan, too, has seen no end to the fighting between government troops and West-supported Muslim groups seeking to drive out the Soviet forces who intervened in 1979.

The U.S. faced widespread criticism for its involvement in Central America, and even NATO allies were swift to condemn the October invasion of Grenada.

Two years of U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva on limiting Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) in Europe ended in November when the Soviet Union walked out after the West German parliament voted to go ahead with deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 missiles under a 1979 NATO plan.

Despite massive demonstrations from anti-nuclear protesters all over Europe, the first Pershing-2 and cruise missiles due for deployment began to arrive in Britain, West Germany and Italy in November.

Separate U.S.-Soviet talks on long-range intercontinental missiles and NATO-Warsaw Pact discussions on conventional weapons in Europe have also adjourned without resumption dates.

In Lebanon, guerrillas loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat are finally leaving after weeks of fierce battles against Syrian-backed rebels.

Attacks on the Multinational Force in October, claiming the lives of 241 U.S. and 58 French troops, will be remembered among the horrifying events in Lebanon this year.

The suicidal bombings took place in Beirut and later on French and U.S. targets in Kuwait.

The Lebanese crises also brought Syria into confrontation with the U.S. and to a lesser extent French forces based in Beirut.

In the Gulf war, Iran launched several offensives against Iraq during the year, and in response to Iraqi threats of attacks on oil installations in the Gulf, said it would block the Hormuz Strait if dis-

ruption of its oil shipments continued.

Iraq took delivery of five French Super-Etendard jets capable of carrying Exocet missiles.

In Afghanistan, the war enters its fifth year, this month and hopes of a political settlement, fanned by United Nations-sponsored talks last spring, have failed.

The invasion of Grenada, a former British colony, followed a power struggle in the ruling Marxist Party and a military coup during which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was killed.

Grenada's close ties with Cuba and the Soviet Union had soured relations with the U.S., which maintained that a new airport being built on the island was to be used as a launching pad for Cuban operations in Africa and South America.

Washington came in for mixed reactions over its intervention in Grenada and critics also attacked its policy of financing a rebel war against the leftwing Sandinista government in Nicaragua, and backing the El Salvador army against leftist rebels.

November saw 4,000 U.S. troops along the Honduran border with Nicaragua and U.S. warships off the coast, ostensibly on military exercises but leading to fears in Nicaragua that an invasion was imminent.

News from El Salvador concentrated on the activities of extreme rightwing death squads who, according to church and human rights organisations, have this year claimed more than 1,000 victims.

Deteriorating relations between the two superpowers formed a continuous strand through 1983, flaring with the destruction in September by Soviet pilots of a South Korean airliner carrying 269 pas-

sengers.

The Soviet Union maintained that the plane was on a spying mission over secret military installations near the island of Sakhalin, and ordered it be shot down after it apparently failed to respond to warnings.

In Western Europe, support for the NATO alliance and nuclear deployment seemed to be indicated by the election of the rightwing Christian Democratic Union in West Germany and the return to power in Britain of Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives.

Municipal elections in France also reflected a swing to the right, with the Socialists and Communists losing control of 31 major towns and gaining only one.

The left fared better in Australia where, under the new leadership of Bob Hawke, the labour party swept to victory in general elections in March.

Democracy returned to two countries, Argentina and Turkey, after years of military rule.

In Argentina, Raul Alfonsín was sworn in as president in December after leading his reformist Radical Party to a landslide victory in elections.

And in Turkey, an elected assembly met for the first time since the 1980 military coup, with Turgut Ozal, leader of the conservative Motherland Party which won the November elections, taking office as prime minister under continued military rule.

Cyprus became the focus of international attention when Turkish Cypriots in the north proclaimed an "Independent Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" but only Turkey has so far recognised the unilateral declaration.

Political unrest erupted in Sri Lanka in July, when violence be-

ween the Sinhalese and Tamil communities led to large numbers of deaths, the imposition of a curfew, and the banning of leftwing parties.

In the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland, acts of terrorism continued unabated despite efforts to form a new all-Ireland "forum" linking all political parties from the North and the Republic of Ireland in the south.

In Chad, France and America sent military support for the government of Hissene Habre in its fight against Libyan-backed rebels led by former President Goukouni Oueddei.

In the Philippines, opposition leader Benigno Aquino was shot dead as he returned from exile in America. The assassination led to huge public demonstrations against President Ferdinand Marcos's government.

And in Burma, two north Koreans were sentenced to death for their part in an October bomb explosion which killed 21 people, including four visiting South Korean cabinet ministers.

The year brought mixed fortunes for the Poles. Martial law was officially lifted and a limited amnesty declared for political and other offenders in July, but strict control on social and economic life continued.

Pope John Paul II paid a visit to his native country in June and met Polish leader General Jaruzelski and Lech Walesa, leader of the banned free trade union Solidarity.

Throughout the world, man-made wars were matched by natural disasters. Bush fires swept large areas of southwest Australia, severe floods, drought and storms claimed at least 6,000 lives in

China, and typhoons hit northern and central Vietnam.

The worst earthquake in Turkey since the mid-1970s devastated about 50 villages in the northeast, leaving at least 1,300 dead and a further 35,000 homeless.

Some 22 African countries were affected by drought and the food and agriculture organisation estimated that 150 million people were facing the threat of dire food shortages.

Two separate air crashes occurred in Madrid Airport in less than two weeks recently. A Colombian Boeing 747 crashed on landing, killing 182 people on board, and then 42 people were killed when two Spanish airliners collided on the runway in thick fog.

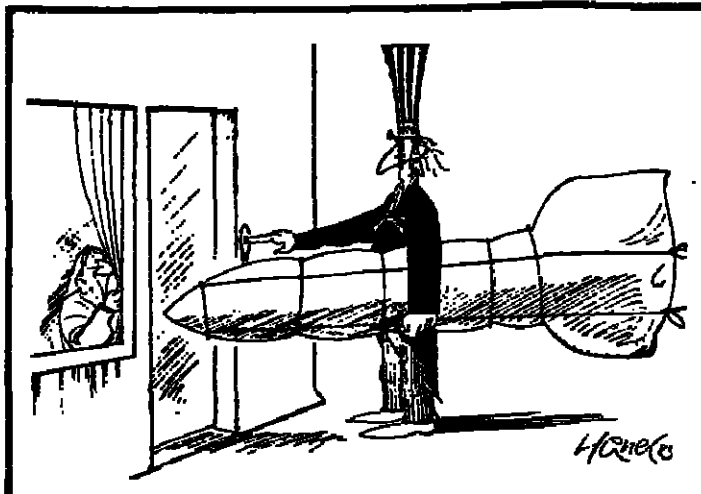
The world's poorer and developing countries took little comfort from 1983's bleak economic picture.

Brazil avoided default on its \$40 billion debts, the largest in the developing world, only through massive efforts by the International Monetary Fund and hundreds of worldwide banks.

South America alone owes more than \$300 million and Poland, Yugoslavia and Nigeria are among other major debtors.

Recovery from recession was slow. The U.S. economy led the way through record budget deficits. Its high interest rates and soaring dollar were blamed for attracting capital away from countries needing to fuel their own recovery.

Oil prices fell for the first time since 1973, but the steady rise in value of the dollar, the currency of payment, eroded most of the gains for oil importers.



فكراتنا النجلى



# Arabs look to the sun to conserve energy

By John Kohut  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Arab countries, some with oil reserves expected to last at least another century, are looking to the sun to help conserve their energy wealth.

The first Arab International Solar Energy Conference held in Kuwait recommended that Arab states co-ordinate efforts to develop solar energy.

"We don't see our efforts in developing solar energy as undermining the oil market," conference chairman Ali Sayigh told Reuters.

The five-day meeting was attended by about 300 experts from 16 Arab and 16 non-Arab countries.

Mr. Sayigh, head of the Solar Energy Department at Kuwait's Institute for Scientific Research, said solar energy could meet perhaps five per cent of world energy needs by the end of the century, compared with a half per cent now.

Increased use of solar energy would reduce dependence on oil and slow down depletion of reserves, he said.

Solar energy, produced from the light and heat of the sun, has been rapidly developed since 1958 when it was used to power the U.S. satellite vanguard one, considered the first major application of sunlight to generate energy.

In the early 1960s, it cost about \$1,000 to produce a peak watt of energy from the sun. A peak watt

is the power generated at noon on a clear day when sunlight is strongest.

The cost now is about \$7, and scientists expect it to drop further and match that of other energy sources by the mid-1990s. Already, solar energy can be cheaper than other sources in remote rural areas not connected to power grid.

Its applications include home air conditioning, water pumping, desalination plants and protection of oil pipes from costly blowouts through corrosion.

Researchers in Arab countries, many with an average nine hours of sunshine a day, have been catching up with solar energy developments in the West, as evidenced by 81 highly specialised papers presented at the conference.

Energy consumption in Arab states rose by 15 per cent between 1978 and 1981, most of it accounted for by oil and natural gas, according to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Solar energy, used to bring potable water and refrigeration to desert tribes, is pollution-free and requires little maintenance. One of the most ambitious solar energy projects in the Arab World is a \$100 million U.S. and Saudi Arabian-built solar village opened recently near Riyadh and designed as a prototype for similar projects throughout the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter with the largest known oil deposits, is also the biggest investor in solar energy among Arab states, with annual outlays of some \$40 million, delegates said.

Iraq spends about \$10 million a year on solar energy research and Kuwait about \$2 million. "In Kuwait's case, it is just enough to keep up with developments in other countries," Mr. Sayigh said.

Delegates said Arab governments had not yet recognised the full potential of solar energy, which cannot compete commercially with heavily subsidised petroleum-generated electricity.

Petroleum-produced electricity in some Gulf states costs more than it does in the West, simply because governments paid little attention to costs when oil revenues were soaring, said one scientist.

"Energy wastage in the Gulf region is diabolical," a Gulf-based manager of a solar energy company said.

A big problem was convincing people of the need for conservation and educating them about the possible cost-competitiveness of solar energy, delegates said.

The conference recommended introducing solar energy studies in higher education institutes and establishing central information centres to reduce duplication of energy research.

"There is a lot at stake," one Arab scientist told Reuters. "With the Western World so concerned about the security of its oil supplies from the Gulf, it is in our interests to make sure there are energy supplies from various sources — and lots of it," he said.

## No pessimists on board

Have you noticed how pessimistic people around you are? Gaiety has become rare and when someone asks "how is it going?" people seem to say: "How do you think it is going?"

It seems that things aren't going well for the majority of people. "Political news is bleak, life is becoming complicated, more a burden..." This is what you hear all day long. Furthermore, during this last week of the year I have asked several friends what they intend to do on New Year's Eve. The answers I received were something like "well, what New Year's Eve? We have no plans for this year."

Undoubtedly the spirits are low in 1983 and New Year's Eve will be an unexciting night like most.

Well, why not, you may say. One can spend the 31st peacefully... but this pessimistic state of mind and the low spirits bother me.

It is true that 1983 has brought unhappiness to many people, and that nationalistic beliefs and efforts have suffered severely. Our dignity was hurt too, but for heaven's sake let's not allow all this to keep us from smiling.

In spite of everything, let us welcome 1984 with optimism, and let us allow hope to grow in us again. And let us also firmly believe that everything will be better. As the saying goes: "Smile and the world will smile with you".

Happy new year to all.

## Foreign Legion: Still a formidable fighting force in the desert

By Bernard Edinger  
Reuter

DJIBOUTI — The French tricolour flapped in the hot desert breeze as a bugle call sounded in the emptiness of the arid Djibouti landscape.

A German sergeant barked a guttural order across the parade ground and the guard detail snapped to attention for the daily ceremonial presentation to the regiment's colonel.

It could all have been a scene from a remake of "Beau Geste". But this was no film. It was one of the world's toughest and most disciplined fighting forces acting out a ritual that has not changed since 1831 when the French Foreign Legion was formed.

The legion is still a formidable fighting body which men join to shed their past, to forget and to be forgotten.

"Why has the legion remained unchanged? Because our strength is in our traditions which we protect and maintain," Colonel Jean-Bernard Vialle told Reuters.

Col. Vialle, a tall, barrel-chested man with a close-shaven head who seems to have stepped straight out of some desert fighting epic, commands the unit-strong legion unit in Djibouti, the 13th Demi-Brigade de Legion Etrangere.

The Legion is now 8,100 strong and its men come from 60 countries.

A legion armoured car unit is in the front-line of French troops facing Libyan-backed forces in the military stalemate in the deserts of northern Chad.

Another unit, a parachute regiment based on the Mediterranean Island of Corsica, is one of the spearheads of France's overseas intervention force.

Legion paratroopers jumped over Kuwait during Zaire's Shaba insurrection in 1978 and within two days cleared the city of rebels who had massacred European civilians.

Yet another legion regiment is garrisoned in the Amazonian jungles of French Guiana while more legionnaires guard France's nuclear testing ground in the South Pacific.

Legionnaires are fighting men and they scathed with frustration when their second infantry regiment, serving with the Multinational Force in Beirut, lost

some 15 men to artillery and sniper fire and they were not allowed to shoot back.

Unbending discipline has always characterised the legion. Col. Vialle says corporal punishment is now banned, but adds that "The legion is certainly still a very tough place to serve."

One European civilian living in Djibouti, where legionnaires are among the best clients for the port city's bars and prostitutes, says it is best to keep clear of them when they let off steam.

Djibouti's mountainous desert wasteland, where temperatures routinely reach 45 degrees centigrade, provides perfect terrain for the legion's grueling training.

But although the white-walled turreted legion forts made popular in Hollywood films are still found

throughout Djibouti, most have now been handed over to the fledgling national army.

The legion maintains two companies near the sensitive borders with Ethiopia and Somalia where their main role is to protect this former French colony at the mouth of the Red Sea.

Both states laid claim to Djibouti when it became independent in 1977 and the authorities here asked France to maintain a 4,500-strong garrison, including the legionnaires, to protect the new state.

The only major incident was shortly after independence when legionnaires stormed a Somali army post which fired at them.

The presence of the legionnaires here has drawn stunning young women from other countries of the Horn of Africa to ply the world's oldest trade. Only a few years ago legionnaires were followed in their campaigns by their own mobile brothels.

A recruit gets the equivalent of \$220 a month when he signs a five-year contract in France. But after training and on reaching Djibouti a few months later, he has a family and off-base prices are high.

About half the legionnaires are native French speakers. Some are Belgians, Swiss and Canadians but most are Frenchmen who join under an assumed nationality as only foreigners can join the legion.

Others include Britons, Spaniards, Germans and even a few Vietnamese and Cambodians.

## Saudis pledge \$5m for international centre

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia pledged \$5 million Dec 1 to fund the construction and development of the Smithsonian Institution's International Centre — one of the major components of the centre for African, Near Eastern and Asian cultures, which is now being built on the National Mall in Washington.

The donation has made for further better understanding and mutual relations between the people of the United States and those of Saudi Arabia and the Arab and Islamic world, said Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Saudi ambassador to the United States, as he signed his government's agreement with the Smithsonian.

As part of the international centre, there will be a centre for Islamic studies, where scholars from around the world can study the contributions that Islam has made to architecture, art and folk traditions. Plans also include a residence programme for visiting scholars.

The centre will be the focus of an institutional effort to preserve cultural values and traditions and the environment in which they exist.

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## SPORTS

## Australia wins Davis Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia won the Davis Cup for the 25th time Wednesday with a crushing performance of power, speed and accuracy from 18-year-old Pat Cash.

The precocious teenager who was the world's top junior last year showed the talent which may one day make him the world's number one as he demolished Joakim Nystrom 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 to give Australia a winning 3-1 lead over Sweden.

Mats Wilander reduced the final deficit to 3-2 with a hollow 6-8, 6-0, 6-1 victory over John Fitzgerald in the 'dead' singles, which was reduced to best-of-three sets.

Team captain Neale Fraser, himself a member of four successive cup-winning teams from 1959 to 1962 and a successful captain in 1973 and 1977, called this victory "the greatest challenge of my life."

"For us to win the Davis Cup without a player ranked in the top 30 in the world... you can go back to the record books but I don't think any other country ever won the cup without a player in the top 30."

"We have beaten players consistently ranked higher than us throughout the year — that to me is a tremendous achievement."

"I think it is a great thing for our players in the future — you don't necessarily have to have someone in the top 10 to win the Davis Cup," Fraser said.

Australia's triumph was indeed a victory for teamwork. After Cash lost to Wilander 6-3, 4-6, 9-7, 6-3 in the tie's opening match on Monday, Fitzgerald shrugged off his poor practice form to level the tie with a sterling 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 in the doubles.

Then on Tuesday it was the turn of the acrobatic Paul McNamee — backed by steady support from Mark Edmondson — to shine for Australia as they beat Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles.

On Wednesday it was Cash who played the hero's role.

In contrast, Sweden had only Wilander. His victory in the Australian Open two weeks ago, followed by Nystrom's surprise win in the New South Wales Open a week later, had made the Swedes the favourites in the final.

But here, only Wilander delivered, and for all their promise Sweden are still very much a

one-man team.

On Wednesday Cash was a different player from the one who lost to Nystrom in the New South Wales Open as he took charge from the beginning of the match to open a 4-1 lead.

It came with a service break in the second game.

The 20-year-old Nystrom, who was under tremendous pressure to keep Sweden in the fight, was tentative and again troubled by his first serve. But he clawed his way back and broke Cash's serve with a sizzling cross court backhand in the seventh game to narrow the score to 4-3.

Cash, however, broke him for the set in the 10th game when Nystrom lunged at a return and hit it just out of court.

Cash tightened his grip in the second set, breaking serve in the second and sixth games, and the Swede's resistance melted away in the final set as Cash kept turning the screw. Nystrom won just two points in the last four games and Cash won with a confident top spin lob which Nystrom could only watch.

Cash, who double faulted 16 times against Wilander, served just two doubles Wednesday and he also returned and volleyed very well.

"This is the greatest thrill of my life," he said. "I feel Joakim didn't play his best today. He is a tough player and I was happy to get through him."



Two members of the Jordanian Armed Forces display their martial arts skills in a 3-day competition which ended Wednesday.

## Armed Forces Tae Kwan Do championships end

AMMAN (Petra) — The Armed Forces Tae Kwan Do championships ended at the Sports City's Palace of Sport on Wednesday with the special forces team scoring the highest points. Taking part in the 3-day competition were 43 competitors who displayed skills of high standards.

At the end of Wednesday's finals, the commander of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division presented the cup to the winning team and medals to the other participants. The final match was also attended by senior army officers.

## Egypt wins African basketball

ALEXANDRIA (R) — Egypt trounced Angola 94-68 (halftime score 43-30) Tuesday night to win the 12th African Men's Basketball Championships.

Egypt, which lost the title eight years ago, regained it without a single defeat in the five-game series.

The win qualifies Egypt to play in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, joining its volleyball team which won the African Men's Championships earlier this month.

The Angolans, lacking the vigour and speed they displayed on Monday in beating favourites Senegal 68-61, took an early lead, but was unable to contain an Egyptian side cheered on by 10,000 fans.

Gavaskar, who is making his 99th appearance for India, said he had no immediate plans to retire from test cricket but admitted: "I'm tired and stale at present."

Gavaskar went on: "But India have no test commitments for at least another nine months so I've enough time to make a decision before another series comes along."

The Indian's innings was in contrast to his performances in the previous tests in which he adopted a cavalier approach. On Wednesday, he batted in the manner of old, concentrating hard and exercising patience.

With the pitch slow and true and Gavaskar looking run-hungry, a big score was always likely. However, he had an anxious moment in Malcolm Marshall's first over when he survived a confident appeal for a catch in the slips from a short, lifting delivery.

Play had started an hour late because parts of the outfield were left sodden by an overnight thunderstorm.

India, 3-0 down in the series, resumed in a grim position and lost night-watchman Yadav when he tried to drive Marshall and was caught by Jeff Dujon.

## Gavaskar steers India to safety

MADRAS (R) — Sunil Gavaskar completed one of the most memorable days of his illustrious cricket career when he steered India to safety in the sixth test against West Indies and overtook Sir Donald Bradman as the top test century-maker.

India, who started the shortened fourth day in the precarious position of 69 for four in reply to West Indies' total of 313, were 262 for six and seem certain to force a draw.

Gavaskar, 34, remained unbeaten for almost seven hours to reach 149 — his 30th test century.

The little master also shared a record-breaking partnership with Ravi Shastri. They put on 170, the highest-ever Indian sixth-wicket haul against West Indies.

Shastri, having made 72 in 224 minutes, was out to the last ball of the day when he was trapped leg before by an off-cutter from Winston Davis.

The only other wicket the West Indians captured was that of night-watchman Shival Yadav.

Gavaskar, who is making his 99th appearance for India, said he had no immediate plans to retire from test cricket but admitted: "I'm tired and stale at present."

Gavaskar went on: "But India have no test commitments for at least another nine months so I've enough time to make a decision before another series comes along."

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## THE Daily Crossword by Mary C. Whitten

ACROSS	25 El —, Tex.	53 Certain pattern	13 Robert
1 Bygone	26 Former province of France	57 Grebe	22 Reindeer
5 "To — own self..."	28 Great need	61 Lombardy	24 Sgt. Sg.
10 Actor	33 Cooperstown	62 Physician of yore	26 Leading
14 Straight beam	37 Oscar — Ranta	63 Fitzgerald or Rains	27 Memory glitch
15 Shack	38 Spire ornament	64 Butterflies	28 Moorings
16 Biblical country	39 Pindar work	65 Funeral oration	30 Sand payment
17 Persian elf	40 Homo sapiens	66 Plabbeagast	31 Blas
18 Make jubilant	41 Serpents	67 Actor Bruce	32 Zesty
19 Dilatory	43 Backing	68 West haywire	34 Dandy
20 Certain	47 Gobi, e.g.	69 Kind	35 Pottery
21 Act of modernizing	49 Attractive		36 "All the King's..."
23 Feminine suffixes	50 Enthroned		38 "All the King's..."
	52 Chaldean		39 "All the King's..."

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. MAINTENANCE 2. BIRD 3. BIRD 4. BIRD 5. BIRD 6. BIRD 7. BIRD 8. BIRD 9. BIRD 10. BIRD 11. BIRD 12. BIRD 13. BIRD 14. BIRD 15. BIRD 16. BIRD 17. BIRD 18. BIRD 19. BIRD 20. BIRD 21. BIRD 22. BIRD 23. BIRD 24. BIRD 25. BIRD 26. BIRD 27. BIRD 28. BIRD 29. BIRD 30. BIRD 31. BIRD 32. BIRD 33. BIRD 34. BIRD 35. BIRD 36. BIRD 37. BIRD 38. BIRD 39. BIRD 40. BIRD 41. BIRD 42. BIRD 43. BIRD 44. BIRD 45. BIRD 46. BIRD 47. BIRD 48. BIRD 49. BIRD 50. BIRD 51. BIRD 52. BIRD 53. BIRD 54. BIRD 55. BIRD 56. BIRD 57. BIRD 58. BIRD 59. BIRD 60. BIRD 61. BIRD 62. BIRD 63. BIRD 64. BIRD 65. BIRD 66. BIRD 67. BIRD 68. BIRD 69. BIRD 70. BIRD 71. BIRD 72. BIRD 73. BIRD 74. BIRD 75. BIRD 76. BIRD 77. BIRD 78. BIRD 79. BIRD 80. BIRD 81. BIRD 82. BIRD 83. BIRD 84. BIRD 85. BIRD 86. BIRD 87. BIRD 88. BIRD 89. BIRD 90. BIRD 91. BIRD 92. BIRD 93. BIRD 94. BIRD 95. BIRD 96. BIRD 97. BIRD 98. BIRD 99. BIRD 100. BIRD 101. BIRD 102. BIRD 103. BIRD 104. BIRD 105. BIRD 106. BIRD 107. BIRD 108. BIRD 109. BIRD 110. 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## Turkey sets bases for Islamic banks

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has prepared the ground for establishment of Islamic banks with the publication of guidelines to govern their operation.

Dubbed "special finance institutions", the Islamic banks are expected to attract capital from Muslim countries, especially Saudi Arabia, banking sources said.

Islamic banks do not pay or charge interest, banned under Islamic law, but instead share in profits of ventures they finance and divide their own profits among shareholders and depositors. None have yet been established in Turkey, where at least 90 per cent of the population is Muslim.

Under a decree published in the official gazette, the special financial institutions are required to have 100 founding shareholders

and a minimum capital of 5 billion lira (\$17.5 million). Foreign shareholders will have to pay for their shares in foreign currency.

The decree permits Islamic banks to finance trade and agricultural activities and joint ventures, as well as granting letters of guarantee for contractors working abroad.

Mr. Tuncay Artun, deputy general manager of Yapi Ve Kredi Bankasi, said the establishment of banks based on Islamic principles could benefit Turkey by attracting Arab capital.

Mr. Kaya Erdem, deputy prime minister in the new government of Mr. Turgut Ozal which approved the decree, was quoted by the conservative daily Tercuman as saying Islamic banks would contribute to reinvestment of domestic savings in the economy.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kuwait to explore for oil in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's minister of development and industry, Mr. Yousef Ahmad Al-Shirawi, Wednesday signed an offshore oil exploration agreement with a state-owned Kuwait oil concern, officials said. Under the agreement, the Kuwait Petroleum Exploration Company will explore for oil in a concession of about 600,000 acres off the north-east coast of Bahrain. Superior Oil of the United States had previously held the concession, but had relinquished its rights. The Kuwaiti company, an offshoot of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, will conduct seismic tests in the areas, followed by test drilling, the officials said.

### Riyadh, Seoul to set up joint ventures

MANAMA (OPECNA) — Saudi Arabia and South Korea are to set up joint petrochemical and construction ventures, according to an agreement concluded in Jeddah Tuesday. The agreement, also includes a bilateral aviation convention and a \$50 million Saudi loan to help finance South Korea's port development projects.

### B.A. rejects Pan Am charges

LONDON (R) — British Airways (B.A.) Wednesday rejected a complaint by Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) that the British government unfairly subsidised Concorde's transatlantic fares. Pan Am says British Airways diverts first class traffic from U.S. flag carriers because it sets fares aboard the supersonic aircraft substantially below cost. A British Airways spokeswoman said: "Concorde is making a useful contribution to profit. The fares are certainly not below costs." British Airways expects the Concorde to make an operating profit of about £10 million (\$14 million) this year. It will pay about 80 per cent of this back to the British government. Pan Am said it lost a total of \$150 million since Concorde service began in 1977.

### S. Arabia donates \$5m to Guinea

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has donated \$5 million for relief operations in Guinea following last week's earthquake in which hundreds of people were killed, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Wednesday. It said the cash donation was in addition to blankets, tents, medicine and food supplies.

## Rabat to survey people's wealth

RABAT (R) — Morocco is to carry out a national census of people's wealth to determine who should bear the cost of planned price increases for basic commodities. King Hassan announced Monday night.

In a state broadcast, the monarch said details of the census, which he described as a unique survey, would be given by the minister of the interior, who will be responsible for organising it.

The king said drought, deteriorating terms of trade and the cost of war in the Western Sahara had pushed Morocco into financial difficulties and necessitated increases in the prices of basic commodities.

The cost of the increases, however, should not be borne by the public at large but by "certain categories of wealthy people," he said.

He did not say whether taxes would be increased on higher incomes, or whether the wealthy would be made to contribute to the state's compensation fund used to subsidise the prices of basic foods and petroleum products.

He said the census would be different from the population census

taken in September 1982 which counted over 20 million people but gave no further details.

Postal charges and the prices of most basic foods, tobacco, petroleum products and electricity have all been increased since the government introduced an austerity budget in July before requesting the rescheduling of part of its foreign debt, estimated at over \$11 billion.

The budget slashed government spending, abolished some civil service jobs and introduced a new tax on Moroccan travelling abroad.

Severe import restrictions were also introduced to cut the trade deficit which in 1982 was a record \$2.26 billion.

The 1984 budget will be drafted soon by a 6-party coalition government formed by the king on Nov. 30 to supervise legislative elections scheduled for the end of January or early February.

The king said the new chamber of representatives, whose first tasks will include approval of next year's budget, will meet for the first time on the second Friday in April.

## Freezing weather in U.S. boosts free market oil price

ROTTERDAM (R) — Freezing weather in the United States has sharply boosted free market oil prices since Christmas, easing much of the pressure for cuts in the official price of Britain's North Sea oil, traders said Wednesday.

As the European market got back into its stride Wednesday morning, the key North Sea Brent crude oil was pegged at \$29.50 a barrel for January loading, 60 cents up from Friday.

This compares with an official price of \$30 a barrel which the British National Oil Corporation

(BNOC) aims to maintain during the first quarter of 1984.

In recent negotiations with oil companies, BNOC has come under strong pressure to cut one to \$2 off a barrel because of weak demand for oil.

Since October, most crudes have traded on the free spot mar-

ket at far below official prices.

Like the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Britain is trying to resist price cuts which could trigger a chaotic price war.

The boost which the market is getting from the U.S. freeze is bound to reinforce BNOC's confidence, even though no one thinks prices will stay firm for long," one senior trader said.

Much of the pressure for price cuts came from U.S. companies who buy North Sea oil on official priced contracts but have no refineries in Europe and must sell the crude at the best value they can get.

Traders said Chevron Oil, which takes around 60,000 barrels a day (b/d) of North Sea oil from the Ninian field, may well decide not to continue with its contract.

Similar decisions could lose BNOC up to 200,000 b/d in contracts from North Sea output of 2.4 million b/d.

BNOC's position looked weak earlier this month when one U.S. company, Citgo Petroleum Corp., announced that it would pay no more than \$28.50 for the U.S. domestic crude West Texas intermediate, now the same price as Brent at \$30.

Citgo has just withdrawn that decision because none of the major companies in the market follow suit.

With one key North Sea oil company, Esso, already committed to an unchanged price structure, and B.P. and Shell believed to be in the same position, industry sources now expect no changes this coming quarter.

## Kuwait's trade balance improves

KUWAIT (OPECNA) — In the fiscal year 1982-83 Kuwait's exports and imports fell by 1.6 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively compared to the previous year, though the trade balance improved by 2.7 per cent, according to figures released by the central bank Tuesday.

The rate of oil production (906,000 b/d) rose by 5 per cent over 1981-82 but prices declined by 9.5 per cent.

In contrast, the value of non-oil exports showed a growth of 35 per cent which the bank says will "alleviate the impact of the decline in the value of oil exports."

The report says imports are likely to drop by 3.8 per cent due to a number of factors, including rationalisation of government expenditure, completion of major projects and the shift of part of the transit trade carried on from Kuwaiti territory.

Meanwhile, from March 1984 nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states can conduct economic business, follow professional activities and practise pharmacy in Kuwait, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

The decision, signed by Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr. Jassem Khaled Al-Marzuqi, also permits nationals of the other five GCC states to own up to 75 per cent of capital involved in hotel and catering businesses.

GCC nationals will however be expected to produce evidence of qualifications, their uninterrupted residence in Kuwait and ability to conduct business, to acquire the necessary Kuwaiti licences and registration documents.

This move follows the implementation last May of the unified economic agreement among GCC states.

## Pakistan to triple aid to rural Sind

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan will triple economic aid to rural areas of its southern province of Sind, recently the scene of violent anti-government protests. Planning Minister Mahbub Ul-Haq said here.

Islamabad will pump 10.2 billion rupees (\$784 million) into projects in rural Sind during the 1983-1988 5-year plan, about 3 times as much as in the previous plan, he told journalists Tuesday night.

Echoing a frequent complaint of the protesters, he said rural Sind had stagnated while the provincial capital, Karachi, and the Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, made visible economic progress.

The main project will aim at reclaiming about 40 per cent of the 3.2 million acres along the left bank of the Indus River which suffer waterlogging and excessive salinity, Mr. Haq said.

The World Bank should finish its report on the project by June and is expected along with the Asian Development Bank to provide \$300 million of the \$644 million needed.

Mr. Haq said rural Sind had suffered because its private sector was not as active as the Punjab's and because Karachi had allocated most provincial development funds for itself.

He said there were also fewer Sindhis working in the Gulf, so the dramatic changes that worker remittances brought to the Punjab could not be emulated.

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Government bonds showed net gains ranging to 7 1/16 point on hopes of a reduction in U.S. interest rates but trading interest was small following Christmas, dealers said. At 1500 hrs the F.T. index was down 1.1 at 773.9.

Equities were mixed with interest very selective. Oil shares continued last week's firmer trend with B.P. a net 6p up at 401 while Shell rose 5p to 561 with sentiment still helped by stable crude oil prices, dealers said.

Gold shares closed below best levels after a quiet session and North American shares firmed.

BTR added 8p to 427 after favourable press comment but Grand Met fell 7p to 331 in further reaction to last week's results and a one for five scrip issue. ICI ended 2p down at 654 but P and O firmed 3p to 247 on renewed speculative demand, dealers noted.

Combined English stores was 5p up at 46 after news it sold a retail menswear chain to the Burton group which closed 6p up at 422. Banks and insurances drifted lower. Eagle Star fell 11p to 707 after 704 awaiting further bid developments.

Tanjong Tin advanced to 325 from 250 on Far East demand in a market short of stock.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4225/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2448/51	Canadian dollars
	2.7520/35	West German marks
	3.0930/50	Dutch guilders
	2.1889/1910	Swiss francs
	56.11/16	Belgian francs
	8.4200/50	French francs
	1671.00/1672.50	Italian lire
	233.65/80	Japanese yen
	8.0500/50	Swedish crowns
	7.7550/7600	Norwegian crowns
	9.9700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	379.00/379.50	U.S. dollars

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"If you can muster up a smile in 30 seconds or less, you will win today's grand prize: toast, juice and coffee!"

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OPTIA

ROUCS

CARCIT

CATIMP

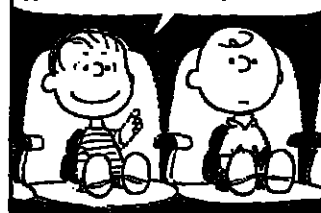
Answer: "A" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LIVEN - FLUID INNING DEFAME

Answer: The dentist grew fat because almost everything he touched was this - FILLING

## Peanuts

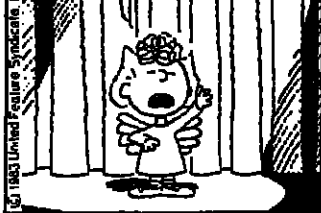
THE SHEEP ARE THROUGH DANCING, CHARLIE BROWN... HERE COMES YOUR SISTER...



HOCKEY STICK!



HOCKEY STICK! "???"



## Mutt 'n' Jeff

NO! I SAID NO AND I MEAN NO!



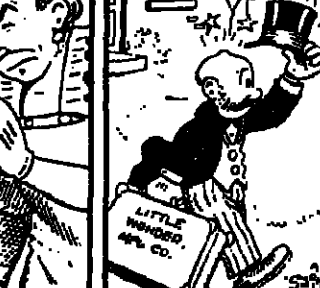
BUT MA'AM, THIS LITTLE GADGET IS THE BUY OF THE CENTURY!!



IT'S A BOTTLE-OPENER, CORKSCREW, SCISSOR, PENKNIFE, TOMATO SLICER, CHEESE DICER, ETC.



I DON'T WANT.

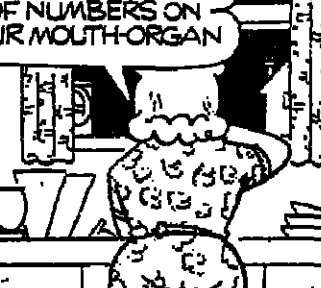


## Andy Capp

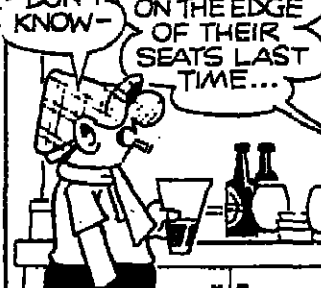
THE PARTY'S GONE A BIT FLAT, PET—



YOU'RE THE HOST, MATE. THEY'RE YOUR RELATIVES—GIVE 'EM A COUPLE OF NUMBERS ON YOUR MOUTH-ORGAN



OH, I DON'T KNOW—



DON'T BE BASHFUL, YOU HAD THEM ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS LAST TIME...



TRYIN' TO MUSTER THE NERVE TO GET UP AN' GO HOME



## YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

### FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be very tied down to some duties and responsibilities today and it is the right day for you to be most conscientious in carrying through with them. Organize your future.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to get those payments cut down that have you wrought up and make it easier on yourself in the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) An associate is applying pressure to make sure you are doing what you have agreed to do. Cheerfully comply.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have to get your work done without fail today, so get at it and it won't be as hard as you had anticipated.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Recreation you were looking forward to may be postponed, so don't let it rile you up. Await a better day.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Home conditions are not to your liking now, so absent yourself for a while. Get busy at what will give you greater income in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Vital data should be gone after early in the day for best results. Postpone any trip you have in mind. Exercise caution while driving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan to economize and do not be drawn into anything that means making a heavy investment of money or property.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Stop feeling so nervous and irritated about something that is really not so important; just smile and take it in stride.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't permit that private anxiety to keep you away from important activities and you soon can make progress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A dynamic friend can give you good advice, so follow it, though it may mean giving up some frivolity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If some problem or legal affair crops up, take care of it right away, especially if it concerns an older individual.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use your finest judgment in handling that new project and be sure you have all the facts and figures concerning it.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be rather a slow starter at work or study and have the tendency to procrastinate. Teach your progeny to finish whatever is started before going on to other interests. Then there can be much success during the lifetime.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

### FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning is excellent for making arrangements to celebrate the oncoming New Year and whatever has to do with romantic interests or the lighter side of life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Show new contacts that you want to see more of them and then consider new deals and go to different sites.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be more cooperative with a partner and be willing to carry through with an agreement that interests him as well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early get all that work done that is ahead of you and after lunch make new contacts of worth. Complete a neglected project.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You need more entertainment so make arrangements for such in the evening. Do something thoughtful for your mate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Improve your image and later be of assistance to a co-worker. Some new treatment is necessary for better health.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Sending a personal greeting to one you admire is wise, then you can be happy with your family. Make long-distance calls.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Make your home look more festive and then make a fine plan for added income in the future. Appease family members.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are able to accomplish a good deal throughout the day, but find more work to do in the evening also.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Pay a compliment to your mate and then go into the world of action and produce a great deal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Express your affection for a friend and later you can be with a group and have a delightful time together. Improve appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you are available, you can gain added prestige in the outside world. Then get busy at personal matters.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A new contact can be very helpful in the morning, then seek out bigwigs for any backing you need. Plan trip.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she should be encouraged to work on a plan for success in some field where this quality is a prerequisite. Your progeny will be most articulate and early plans bring about tremendous success and fame. Provide spiritual guidance.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!



# Andropov stays away from Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW (R) — President Yuri Andropov, absent from the public scene for more than four months, stayed away from a session of the Supreme Soviet Wednesday, further fueling speculation about his future as Kremlin chief.

But references to Mr. Andropov by officials and the state media indicated that he remained in command and was expected to reappear before long.

The legislature, which meets briefly twice a year, was given an outline of the 1984 state plan and heard a report on the economy that showed Mr. Andropov's first year in office had scored some successes.

The winter session of the Supreme Soviet was the third major event in the Soviet calendar missed by Mr. Andropov since he began suffering from an undisclosed illness in mid-August.

No explanation was given to the assembled deputies when the leadership walked into the grand Kremlin Palace and Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov took the seat normally occupied by the president.

Alongside Mr. Tikhonov sat Mr. Konstantin Chernenko, the Kremlin's second-ranking leader

and the man regarded as the focus of opposition to Mr. Andropov's drive to shake up the Communist Party hierarchy and dismantle the legacy of the late President Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr. Andropov, 69, is officially said to be suffering from a cold although Soviet aides privately acknowledge that his illness is far more serious.

No firm details have emerged, but earlier this year officials made it known that he had a kidney problem.

When the party chief failed to turn up at a meeting of the central committee on Monday, he said in a published statement he had been kept away for "temporary causes."

The party and Supreme Soviet sessions had been delayed for a month to enable Mr. Andropov to recover enough to attend.

Western diplomats believe his prolonged absence is now causing serious embarrassment for the

Kremlin, giving the impression of a power vacuum at a time of international tension.

They also believe that Mr. Andropov's authority for the moment is not in question. The strongest evidence was that three men closely associated with his policies were promoted to top party positions earlier this week.

The official media have given maximum publicity to a series of statements, mainly on foreign policy, appearing under Mr. Andropov's name over the past four months.

In the latest sign that he is not about to leave the scene, the Official News Agency TASS reported Wednesday that the Moscow district he represents in the Supreme Soviet had nominated him to stand for re-election in March.

Setting out the 1984 budget to Wednesday's session, Finance Minister Vasily Garbuzov mentioned Mr. Andropov five times, joining a chorus of official praise for a report on the economy presented by the president to the party on Monday.

In the statement Mr. Andropov repeated earlier criticism of poor management, slack labour discipline and aspects of the centralised planning system, all targets of his effort to tighten up the economy.

# New York gas explosion kills 15

BUFFALO, New York (R) — At least 15 people were killed and dozens more injured in an explosion and fire which destroyed several houses, a warehouse, a bakery and a church in central Buffalo Thursday night, police said.

The fire raged out of control for about three hours after the blast, believed to have been caused by a leaking propane gas cylinder.

Authorities said hospitals were having difficulty contacting staff during the holiday period to treat the injured. Private vehicles had to supplement ambulance service.

"We are in the middle of the disaster here ... 50 people have been brought in," a spokesman for one hospital said.

Windows were blown out in a large area of the east end of Buffalo. Police said a gas leak in a warehouse probably caused the blast.

Initial reports said firemen were called to a house to investigate the

source of propane gas fumes. The house apparently exploded as the firemen began their checks.

One fire engine was engulfed in flames and at least two firemen were among the dead.

The explosion came after Buffalo, in upstate New York, was one of the hardest hit cities in the 10-day-old winter storm which has gripped the United States.

Fourteen inches (35 cms) of snow fell on the city over the Christmas holiday.

# Congress I underlines threat to security

CALCUTTA (R) — Threats to India's security are the main theme of a resolution drawn up at the start of a national convention of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party, convention officials said Wednesday.

Attended by about 10,000 is the first of its kind in seven years and is expected to shape the party's policy for the next general elections.

Officials said a working committee met Wednesday to finalise a draft political resolution which stresses the need to unite the country in the face of threats to its stability.

They said the draft reflects a deterioration in regional security and refers to the nuclear arms race, India's links with neighbouring Pakistan, continued fighting between guerrillas and the Soviet-backed Afghan government, Iran-Iraq war and recent communal violence in Sri Lanka.

The convention is aimed at refurbishing the party's image, defeated by electoral setbacks and internal dissent, in preparation for elections which must be held by the time Mrs. Gandhi's term of office expires in January 1985.

Opposition leaders and political commentators expect Mrs. Gandhi to hold national polls earlier, possibly in March.

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# Pretoria-backed rebels claim victories in Mozambique

LISBON (R) — Mozambican rebels have killed 138 government troops, seized several towns and destroyed communication links and economic targets in a new campaign against the government of President Samora Machel, a guerrilla spokesman said Wednesday.

The Lisbon-based spokesman

# U.S., S. Korean forces to hold military exercise

SEOUL (R) — More than 200,000 members of the U.S. and South Korean armed forces will take part in a massive annual joint military exercise early next year, the Korean-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) announced Wednesday.

U.S. units from outside South Korea, including an aircraft carrier battle group of the Seventh Fleet, will join elements of the 40,000-strong American force already stationed here in the 10-week exercise called "Team Spirit 84".

North Korea and China were informed of the manoeuvres through the armistice commission at Panmunjom earlier Wednesday, a CFC spokesman said.

He said it had not yet been decided whether to invite the North Koreans and Chinese as observers to the exercise. They declined invitations to similar exercises in the past two years.

The exercise will involve 36,400 U.S. forces from the United States and other areas outside South Korea.

The CFC spokesman said the large U.S. participation in the exercise would demonstrate President Reagan's pledge to strengthen American forces in South Korea made during his visit here last month.

# Invincible leaves Sydney after controversial visit

SYDNEY (R) — The British aircraft carrier Invincible sailed out of Sydney harbour Wednesday after a controversial visit which triggered a diplomatic row over Australia's nuclear weapons policy.

The carrier, seeking dry-dock facilities for repairs it had expected to be carried out in Sydney, was heading first for the Western Australian port of Perth, according to diplomatic sources.

But no one was saying where the carrier would go next for the work on a damaged propeller shaft which is affecting its speed.

A British navy spokesman declined comment on reports that repairs would be carried out in Singapore. Singapore was approached last week by the carrier, according to Defence Ministry officials in Singapore.

The Invincible, on a goodwill visit to the region, was stopped from putting into dry dock here because the Labour government does not allow nuclear weapons on Australian soil and because the British, as a matter of policy, refused to say whether it carried

# 150 hurt in Bangladesh as violence halts elections

DHAKA (R) — Authorities suspended voting in at least 17 rural election centres across Bangladesh after at least 150 people were injured in clashes between supporters of rival candidates.

Official sources said police opened fire at some centres Tuesday to disperse crowds who beat up polling officers, snatched away ballot boxes and intimidated voters.

About a dozen people were arrested, the sources added.

At least a dozen people were killed and 200 injured in clashes during campaigning for the elections, police said.

In other places voting went off peacefully on the first day of the first rural elections in seven years.

More than 47 million people were expected to vote in the two weeks of polling for 4,400 rural councils called union councils.

# Korean minister sentenced to seven years in jail

SEOUL (R) — A former cabinet minister in President Chun Doo Hwan's government was Wednesday found guilty of accepting bribes and sentenced to seven years in jail and fined \$102,000 by a Seoul court.

Yoon Ja-Jung, an ex-transport minister, had pleaded not guilty to accepting bribes worth \$110,000 in a multi-million dollar loan scandal that embarrassed the South Korean government.

State prosecutors said he received the money while in office in return for using his influence to help a leading businessman.

The businessman, Kim Chul-Ho, head of the Myungsoong Group which has 21 subsidiary companies, was sentenced to 15 years in jail and fined \$11.5 million.

Kim was convicted of evading taxes worth more than \$6 million and of illegally withdrawing about \$130 million from a leading South Korean bank where unofficial money-lenders deposited large sums on promises of up to one per cent a month commission apart from official rates.

The bank official, Kim Dong-Kyom, who helped withdraw the funds from the bank, was jailed for 12 years.

The court found 19 other defendants, including eight civil servants and several bank officials, guilty of involvement in the illegal operation and sentenced them to terms ranging from seven years in jail to one year suspended.

The scandal led to the dismissal of 30 public servants, including those sentenced, and prompted the Finance Ministry to replace the chiefs of three major state banks.

Chief Judge An Woo-Man told the court the incident had led to mistrust among people and rocked the Korean economy.

# Kabul peaceful during anniversary of coup

ISLAMABAD (R) — Armed troops patrolled the main streets of Kabul and Red Army soldiers guarded key intersections to prevent guerrilla attacks during Tuesday's fourth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Western diplomats said here Wednesday.

The extraordinary security, a notch above the already tight grip the army has had over the capital recently, appeared to have warded off any attacks in the centre as of Tuesday afternoon, they said citing information from their embassies in Kabul.

As part of the precautions, four truckloads of Red Army soldiers guarded Soviet shoppers in the fashionable Shere Nao district on Christmas Eve, they said. A Soviet ambulance was nearby if needed.

The diplomats had no reports so far about activity in the evening, a favourite time for rebel raids, but some said artillery and mortar fire were heard north of Kabul for most of Monday night.

Muslim resistance groups based in Peshawar promised attacks in Kabul to mark the anniversary, but said it might take several days for their couriers to bring the news to Pakistan.

The government of President Babrak Karmal, who was installed by Soviet troops on Dec. 27, 1979, to replace a Communist regime, passed the day without any special events.

State-run Radio Kabul renewed Afghanistan's offer to send home the 105,000 Soviet troops fighting Muslim rebels if Western states would guarantee all guerrilla activity would stop.

Pakistan has already rejected this as impractical and a key resistance leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Tuesday vowed the guerrillas would fight until they drove the Soviets out of the country.

The diplomats said Mr. Karmal had recently made several highly-publicised visits to parts of Kabul in an apparent attempt to show he was in control of the city.

All traffic was blocked from the heavily-patrolled streets he drove down to visit the city's main military hospital last Thursday, they said. The government-controlled media reported he also toured several Kabul neighbourhoods the next day to talk with the people.

# COLUMNS 7 & 8

## Guns found in champagne crates

AOSTA, ITALY (R) — Police seized ammunition, rifles, pistols and explosives hidden in champagne crates in a raid near this Italian Alpine town Tuesday, police said. They said one man was being held on suspicion of involvement in an international gun-running racket. The guns were said to have been shipped between Marseilles and Italy through this mountainous, north-western area of the country. Police also said they discovered letters from Turkey in the house where they found the weapons.

## Philippines taxmen accused of graft

MANILA (R) — A total of 19 overly-wealthy officials of the Philippines Bureau of Internal Revenue face charges of graft, corruption and unexplained wealth, the tax department said. A spokesman said Tuesday nine more names had been added to a list of tax collectors facing charges before a special anti-graft court in an intensified campaign to rid the service of undesirables.

## Nicaragua reports 2,470 deaths in 1983

MANAGUA (R) — A senior Nicaraguan official said Tuesday the struggle between government troops and U.S.-backed rebels cost at least 2,470 lives this year. Sandinista army commander Humberto Ortega said the violence killed 346 civilians, 300 Nicaraguan troops and 1,824 rebels. The total did not include casualties in the latest round of fighting along the northern border with Honduras, he said.

## Cold kills 12 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Twelve people, five of them children, have died in a sudden cold snap in northern Bangladesh, the state-run newspaper Dainik Bangla said Wednesday.

## Soviets conduct Christmas nuclear test

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union conducted a Christmas underground nuclear explosion Monday, according to seismic signals monitored by the United States Atomic Energy detection system, the U.S. Energy Department reported. It said the signals originated on Dec. 25 at 11:29 P.M. (0429 GMT Dec. 26) at the Semipalatinsk test area in Siberia. The department said it was the ninth Soviet test monitored in 1983.

## Bones weaken in space, expert says

NASHVILLE (R) — An American orthopedics professor said Tuesday that weightlessness in space caused bones to weaken and not to grow properly, thus posing a problem for lengthy manned space flights. Dr. Dan Spengler said in a statement issued by Vanderbilt University here that this had been proved from studies of American astronauts in the 1973 Skylab Orbital Space Station and rats aboard the Soviet satellite Cosmos 936. Spengler said one way to overcome bone problems with astronauts might be to produce a spinning motion in the spacecraft which would simulate gravitational force and give human bones something to exercise against.

# U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear patient's plea to die

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The California Supreme Court Wednesday refused to hear a plea from a woman suffering from cerebral palsy that she be allowed to starve herself to death.

Elizabeth Bouvia, 26, a quadriplegic who is confined to a wheelchair and has said her life has lost all its value, has been waging a court battle to legally require nurses to provide her with hygienic care and painkillers while she fasts to death.

Lawyers for Miss Bouvia appealed to the Supreme Court in San Francisco, California's highest court, to stop Riverside General Hospital, where she is a patient, from force-feeding her.

The hospital began feeding her intravenously through her arm on Thursday after her weight had dropped to 90 pounds (41 kilograms).

The lawyers, members of the American Civil Liberties Union, also asked the court to block any attempt by the hospital to possibly

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# THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etienne

**HOLIDAY HINTS**  
By Margaret V. Judah

**ACROSS**

- 1 Big birds
- 2 Archangel's find
- 3 Noisy bird
- 4 Striker's tool
- 5 Thin soup
- 6 Arm bone
- 7 Vio's relative
- 8 Necktie
- 9 Kind of bandage
- 10 Memo
- 11 Off-well control
- 12 Torment
- 13 Smith and Mifflin
- 14 Agenda of sports events
- 15 Architect
- 16 Swiftness
- 17 Enslavement
- 18 Non-edible
- 19 South: fr.
- 20 Diver's find
- 21 Dainty or Samoy
- 22 Make a rummy
- 23 Triumph
- 24 Word
- 25 Vio's relative
- 26 Pa. city
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- 33 Architect
- 34 Swiftness
- 35 Enslavement
- 36 Collides
- 37 South: fr.
- 38 Smother
- 39 Recipient of famous gifts
- 40 Santa's greeting
- 41 Welcome items in Hilo
- 42 Save wedding
- 43 Tootles plain
- 44 Upper crust
- 45 Fictional villain
- 46 A Gardner
- 47 Dose lamp
- 48 Dangle
- 49 Rajah's ladies
- 50 Stripped
- 51 Inhuman
- 52 Adversaries
- 53 Cloys
- 54 Sundry
- 55 "The Razor" —
- 56 Sword
- 57 Sharpens
- 58 Fry
- 59 M. Channing
- 60 Highly
- 61 High nest
- 62 Recipe word
- 63 Musical compositions
- 64 Determined
- 65 Beauty
- 66 Eastern VIP
- 67 Netlike
- 68 Camembert's
- 69 Sporting forth
- 70 Scatting
- 71 Turkish coach
- 72 Babelia
- 73 The star
- 74 Lake Erie
- 75 Weight
- 76 Weatherers
- 77 Detection
- 78 Indisposed and in bed
- 79 Done to a
- 80 Done to a
- 81 River in France
- 82 Hurry
- 83 German battleship, Graf
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**DOWN**

- 1 Trick
- 2 "Tender" spirit
- 3 Baby toy
- 4 Insect colony
- 5 "How doth the little busy"
- 6 Saw
- 7 Small stream
- 8 People
- 9 Ded
- 10 Raps
- 11 Sew loosely
- 12 Loathes
- 13 Arctic
- 14 Onetime
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- 16 Orkney sea
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19 X 19, by R. M. McWhirter

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- 3 Johann Sebastian
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- 5 Color of raw silk
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- 111 In a way
- 112 Arctic
- 113 Onetime
- 114 Glimmer Magle
- 115 Orkney sea
- 116 basin
- 117 Abound
- 118 Campers
- 119 Out: South
- 120 Ring out
- 121 — tone
- 122 "King"
- 123 Did
- 124 Lowly
- 125 In a way
- 126 Arctic
- 127 Onetime
- 128 Glimmer Magle
- 129 Orkney sea
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- 148 Ring out
- 149 — tone
- 150 "King"
- 151 Did
- 152 Lowly
- 153 In a way

**DOWN**

- 1 Trick
- 2 "Tender" spirit
- 3 Baby toy
- 4 Insect colony
- 5 "How doth the little busy"
- 6 Saw
- 7 Small stream
- 8 People
- 9 Ded
- 10 Raps
- 11 Sew loosely
- 12 Loathes
- 13 Arctic
- 14 Onetime
- 15 Glimmer Magle
- 16 Orkney sea
- 17 basin
- 18 Abound
- 19 Campers
- 20 Out: South
- 21 Ring out
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